

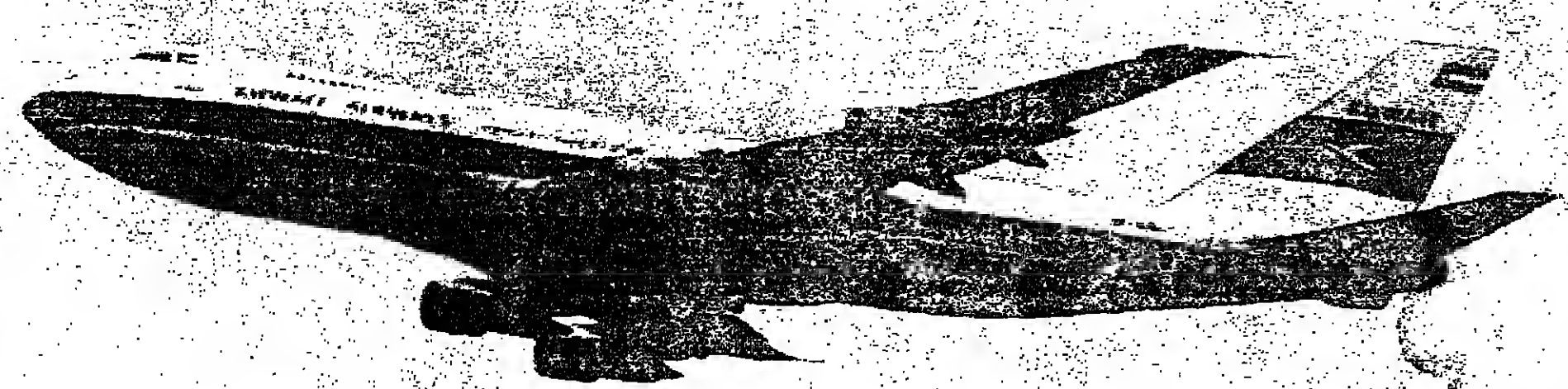
LAST WEEK'S ESTIMATED DAILY SALE 474,000

Desperate pilot warns he will crash in the sea as Syrian troops threaten to shoot down Kuwaiti hostage airliner over Beirut

Hijack jet lands in Cyprus

From Robert Fisk Kuwait

A hijacked Kuwaiti airliner with about 50 hostages on board landed at Larnaca airport in Cyprus last night after being refused permission to land at Beirut.



Turned away: The Kuwaiti Boeing 747 circling Beirut airport yesterday while the pilot and passengers pleaded hysterically for three hours to be allowed to land

The pilot received permission to land in Larnaca after the captain announced he was running out of fuel. 'I'll never forget this, thank you,' shouted the captain after he was told by air traffic controllers at Larnaca airport that he was cleared to land.

The Syrians fired two rounds of anti-aircraft fire into the night sky as a warning when the plane neared the airport. It had been predicted for at least two days that the Kuwait Airlines Boeing 747 flight KU422, which was hijacked over Indian airspace on Tuesday while en-route from Bangkok to Kuwait, would probably end its journey in Damascus.

plained that Kuwaiti subsidies for Syrian military forces operating in Lebanon have been delayed. If President Assad can successfully end the hijack, such criticism may no longer be necessary. Once again, it appeared last night, President Assad appears to be playing a critical role between the Arab Gulf states and Iran whose free oil supplies to Syria have helped to maintain the curious alliance between Damascus and Tehran.

Tears at Heathrow as the victims come home

By Ronald Faux and Michael Horsnell

With tears, flowers and many a wordless embrace, 20 of the hostages from the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner were reunited yesterday with their families when they landed at Heathrow airport.

One of the terrorists explained in a very apologetic way that he was sorry about the inconvenience. 'He said they had nothing against us but it was difficult to appreciate that from the hooded man waving a gun. He said they were fighting for their people's rights but I can't remember which country it was or what rights. It was clearly not European.'

by smiling, exchanging cigarettes and sharing food. 'It is so strange to find yourself suddenly safe and in London.' She said that when she was allowed to go free, there was a faint sense of relief.

They described their terror during the hijack, as a group of hooded terrorists brandishing guns and hand grenades took over their aircraft. They also expressed deep concern for the passengers still held.

David and Susan Carew-Jones, of Middlesex, said the British were probably freed because the attack was aimed exclusively at Kuwait. Mr Carew-Jones, aged 30, said:

'Mrs Carew-Jones said: 'It is awful to think that the other passengers are still up there, somewhere above the Middle East. The others were so friendly. You formed relations



Miss Nicola Appleby and her brother Mark, of Bristol, arriving at Heathrow yesterday

Concern that the levy is misused

But the Southern Cross AAA, which has responsibility for permits in its area, has a change of heart and granted one to Reading. Martin, the SCAA's chief officer, said: 'Reading is a running particularly tight ship. It is not a climb-down us. We expect Reading to abide by the rules, and it is not forthcoming could take legal action if they do not.'

The longest problems yet will be set in The Times Tournament of the Mind when the six-day final begins on Monday. Even if you are not a finalist, see how well you can do against some of the brightest brains in Britain as they compete for a £5,000 prize and The Times Mind of the Year trophy.

Portfolio Accumulator winner Mrs Jennifer Chelley yesterday received a cheque for £152,000 (see page 3). As the £4,000 daily prize was also won yesterday, the Accumulator Fund stands at £10,000.

£500,000 bail for broker

Mr David Mayhew, the Cazenove & Co stockbroker who faces three charges arising out of the Guinness affair, was remanded on bail of £500,000 at Bow Street magistrates court yesterday.

The bail was provided by two sureties, who put up £250,000 each. The sureties are Mr John Kemp-Welch, joint senior partner of Cazenove, and Sir Michael Colman, head of Reckitt & Colman, the mustard and household products group.

The Stock Exchange is considering the position of Mr Mayhew in the light of the charges against him. Mr Mayhew has been a member of the Exchange since 1967. Details, page 25

INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes Home News, Business, Sport, Arts, Births, marriages, deaths, etc.

Peace agreement for Afghanistan

Geneva (Reuter) - An agreement on Afghanistan, which provides for the withdrawal of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops, has been concluded and will be signed no later than April 14, the UN mediator, Señor Diego Cordovez, announced yesterday.

'The documents are now finalized and open for signature,' he told a news conference in Geneva, where talks between Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the United States have been going on since March 2.

'One of the points on which we have not yet an agreement is on the date for the signature,' he said, but he added: 'It will not be later than the 14th.'

Señor Cordovez told reporters later that the Soviet Union would begin pulling out its forces on May 15 and finish within nine months, meaning February 15, 1989. However, he said Moscow

Lawson warns EEC on taxes

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, last night made it clear that Britain will fight EEC moves towards fiscal harmonization.

Addressing the Anglo-German Königswinter conference in Cambridge, Mr Lawson said that the aim of 1992 and the EEC single market should be deregulation, rather than harmonization.

'Clearly the completion of the single market implies the ultimate abolition of restrictions on cross-border shopping within the community; and this would inevitably affect decisions by member states on the levels of VAT and excise duties they choose to levy,' he said.

'But to conclude from this that the road to 1992 requires conformity by all member states is a bureaucratic non sequitur.'

World caught up in National fever

By Robin Young

Some 500 million people in 49 countries will today tune in to a peculiarly British sporting event, the Grand National Steeplechase.

It is the world's most famous remnant of the habit the English foxhunting squirearchy had of racing horses from village to village over stone walls, ploughed fields, hedgerows and whatever other obstacles lay in their way.

Racing over arduous jumps of this scale is unknown in most of the countries taking television coverage of today's race. These include, for the first time, the Soviet Union.

Contrary to some reports, this is not the 150th National, though it does mark the 150th anniversary of steeplechasing at Aintree, Liverpool. It was in 1839 that the appropriately named Lottery won the first race, and a horse called Conrad off-loaded Captain Becher

in the brook that has ever since borne his name. The BBC will use 25 cameras, 20 miles of cable and five outside broadcast units to track the horses round the course, but 60,000 spectators, paying up to £500,000, are still expected. Watching the spectacle live is not the best way of getting a good view; the horses are lost to sight out in the country, and in 1947 the National was run in such thick fog that some people claimed the winner, Caughoo, had only gone round once.

The Princess Royal will be there today. She will unveil a statue of the greatest Aintree hero of all, Red Rum.

Those trying to guess to whom the glory will go this year are reminded that the National is not a race for favourites. This century only five, and five joint-favourites, have won. There have been four winners at 100 to 1.

Media fracas triggers Thatcher security alarm

From Robin Oakley, Istanbul Downing Street authorities are to demand tighter security and better control of the media on Mrs Thatcher's future tours.

This follows a security nightmare in Istanbul yesterday on the Prime Minister's visit to British graves in the Crimean War cemetery.

The Prime Minister was separated from her security detail and was visibly distressed as a vast throng of photographers tramped over flowers and gravestones in a distasteful circus.

Mr Denis Thatcher was among those separated from the Prime Minister by the surging crowd of photographers. He had to elbow his way back to her side.

As the media circus jostled through the cemetery near Florence Nightingale's old hospital, Mr Timothy Daut, the British ambassador, was heard to say: 'Here we go again.' And British officials complained of 'total anarchy' as photographers swarmed everywhere.

The Turkish authorities, anxious not to win a reputation for censoring and controlling the press, appeared to have abandoned all efforts at control.

The previous night fighting broke out between a television crew and photographers at the state banquet given by Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, for Mrs Thatcher in Ankara.

Official complaints were made to Mrs Thatcher's press secretary by a Turkish protocol official about the use of four-letter words by one British crew.

One Turkish photographer was beaten up by police after the disturbances. Though the Prime Minister's visit to Turkey has been a considerable success and aroused the enthusiasm of crowds, she was frequently over-

whelmed and there was clearly serious worry among her entourage about the potential danger to her security.

EEC help: Mrs Thatcher promised Mr Ozal yesterday that Britain would try to get unblocked £375 million in EEC funds due to Turkey for its economic reform programme.

The money has been withheld by the European Parliament at the instigation of Greece, but Mrs Thatcher said its unblocking would be a show of good intent at a time when Turkey's application for full membership of the EEC is being assessed.

Her gesture was seen as reciprocity for Turkish assurances that British bids on large industrial projects would be well received.

Details, page 7

10-year low for base rates

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, yesterday ordered a cut in bank base rates to their lowest level for 10 years, in response to the strength of the pound.

The Bank of England signalled the high street banks to reduce their base rates from 8.5 to 8 per cent, in a move which guarantees a pound of mortgage rate reductions.

The Prime Minister, in Turkey on an official visit, was consulted about the cut in base rates on Thursday evening and approved the decision.

Britain's largest building society, the Halifax said that the mortgage rate for existing borrowers would come down from the present 10.3 per cent to 9.3 per cent or below on May 1. A general cut in mortgage rates to 9.5 per cent or below is on the cards. The Confederation of British Industry welcomed the move. 'This is good news and a

More cuts possible..... 25 Kenneth Fleet..... 25

timely recognition that the authorities are prepared to use interest rates to stabilize sterling,' said Mr John Caff, the CBI's economic director.

The pound continued strong yesterday in spite of the reduction in base rates. It gained a cent to \$1.8765 and a third of a pence to just below DM3.14.

Treasury officials said that the interest rate weapon would be used again if necessary to convince the markets that the Government was serious about exchange rate stability.

Mr Bill Martin, an economist at Phillips & Drew, said further reductions to 7 per cent could take place in the coming weeks if the pound's strength persists.

Treasury officials said that, taken alongside the pound's strength, the cut in rates did not represent a slackening of monetary policy. But the Bank of England does not appear to have been happy with the move, because of concern over credit growth and inflation.

City analysts said that the cut in base rates to their lowest level since May 1978 was risky. The FT-SE 100 index gained 18.7 points to 1,779.7.

'The Chancellor has to weigh up the pros and cons but there are more cons to lower base rates at the present time,' said Mr Richard Jeffrey, an economist at Hoare Govett. 'There is a greater risk of a mini-crisis for sterling later in the year.'

Mr Tim Congdon, economist at Shearson-Lehman Securities, the investment house, described the reduction as 'irresponsible.'

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Jaguar workers seek new offer

Talks to avert a damaging strike at Jaguar remained deadlocked yesterday after more than 4,000 manual workers voted by a majority of four to one to reject the company's plans for increased productivity.

The Coventry-based company said that it would spend the weekend considering its options before resuming talks with shop stewards on Monday.

But a spokesman said: "We still require an improvement in efficiency and productivity and that means manufacturing more cars."

Union leaders said that a strike by assembly workers at the Browns Lane plant in Coventry could still go ahead if management imposed new schedules to increase production by a target figure of 92 more cars a week.

Record car sales

New car sales reached a March record of 209,178, a 12.5 per cent rise over the same month in 1987. The increase lifted new registrations for the first quarter of 1988 to a record 584,832, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said yesterday.

Foreign importers won nearly 55 per cent of the March market. The top selling cars were the Ford Escort, 14,564; Sierra, 13,843; Fiesta, 12,263; Austin/MG Metro, 12,266; Vauxhall Cavalier, 10,996; Vauxhall Astra, 10,430; Austin/MG Montego, 6,417; Vauxhall Nova, 6,182; Ford Orion, 5,459; Rover 200 Series, 5,412.

Assault case acquittal

The owner of a pool hall, Mr Valentine Walker, was cleared yesterday of a charge of assault on Mr Kuombal Balogun, the black activist. But Mr Walker, aged 36, of Robertson Road, Eastville, Bristol, was "too frightened" to attend his trial in case he was wrongly convicted.

He attended the first two days of his four-day trial at Bristol Crown Court. He was accused of attacking Mr Balogun at an office in St Paul's area of Bristol. During the proceedings Mr Balogun was fined £150 for contempt after refusing to give evidence.

Sellafield go-ahead

A plan by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd to build a multi-million pound underground store for nuclear waste in Britain moved a stage nearer yesterday when Cumbria County Council was advised to allow the building of an exploratory borehole on the nuclear reprocessing complex at Sellafield. Copeland District Council, recommending the go-ahead, made it clear its approval did not imply that it was committed to the nuclear waste store.

Volvo jobs boost

Volvo Trucks is to create 100 jobs at its plant in Irvine, Strathclyde, under a £1.5 million investment plan. The Swedish company said yesterday that changes to production lines at Irvine, which currently employs 270, would allow it to handle a wider range of models and to increase capacity by more than 60 per cent, raising production to 4,500 vehicles a year.

Suicide couple saved

An elderly couple attempting suicide yesterday made a transatlantic telephone call that saved their lives. Mr George Barber and his wife, Dorothy, of Farleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, left a message on their daughter's answering machine in New York before swallowing tablets. She played back the call hours later but her parents were already unconscious, so the operator connected her to Leigh police station. Officers broke into the couple's home and took them to hospital, where last night Mrs Barber was unwell and her husband was satisfactory.

Social worker moves

A social worker at the centre of Cleveland's child sexual abuse controversy is moving to a new post. Mrs Sue Richardson is leaving her job for a year to study child abuse and protection at Newcastle Polytechnic. At the six-month inquiry, Mrs Richardson, aged 40, was accused of being an ardent follower of Dr Marietta Higgs who, with Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, diagnosed 121 sexual abuse victims. Dozens of families were separated when their children were taken into care. Most later returned home.

Duchess is chancellor

The Duchess of York will be chancellor of Salford University from 1990, succeeding the Duke of Edinburgh who has held the post since the university was founded 21 years ago.

Speelman's chess lead strengthened

Jonathan Speelman, the British world championship quarter finalist, strengthened his grip on the lead in the sixth round of the Swift world cup chess tournament in Brussels.

He won a crushing victory with the black pieces on Thursday night against the former world championship challenger Victor Korchnoi.

Speelman started his opponent by seizing the initiative at the start of the game by sacrificing two pawns to pin down the white king.

On the 21st move Speelman offered the sacrifice for the bishop to cause utter confusion in the white camp.

Leading standings after round six are: J Speelman (England) 4½pts out of six; L Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) 4pts out of six; Alexander Belyavsky (USSR) and Mikhail Tal (USSR) both on 3½pts out of five games.

However, a spokesman for the International Publishers' Association - for the second time - weeks after his legal battle over the publication of two of his three biographies.

Mr Maxwell's son, Kevin, chief executive of the newly named Maxwell Pergamon Publishing Corporation, said in a letter to the trade body that the company would not be renewing its subscription because the association was not providing "value for money".

However, a spokesman for Mr Maxwell said yesterday that the company would go ahead with the £25,000 sponsorship of a concert at the Festival Hall.

The concert is one of the main social events during the one-week twenty-third congress of the International Publishers' Association which is being staged in Britain for the first time since 1936.

Mr Maxwell's publishing group agreed several months ago to sponsor the concert and a considerable part of the money had been paid over, the spokesman said.

It is understood, however, that the organizers are looking for alternative sponsors.

If Korchnoi had chosen to continue, Speelman would have won with a Queen sacrifice as follows: 32 Kh2 Qxh2+; 33 Rxd2+; 34 Kg1 Rg2+; 35 Kf1 Ne3+.

Claimants in panic to beat Monday's deadline

By Boris Johnson

It was 11.30am when matters started to get heated. All yesterday morning, the social security office in the London borough of Peckham had been facing a rising tide of claimants attempting to press their cases before Monday's deadline for restructuring the benefit system.

The staff, behind recently installed attack-proof, plate glass screens, already had a backlog of 8,000 postal and personally delivered applications for supplementary and other special benefits from previous days, even before the door opened at 9.30.

More than 120 people filled the small, unventilated room with noise and smoke. A phalanx of pregnant women occupied the chairs, while small children ran through the legs of those who could find room to stand.

But the babbling fell silent when there was a commotion at the far end and a young woman in a park

pie hat began to pummel the glass with her fists.

"Come here", she shouted at the empty seat. "Come here now and give me some money, will you?" Desperate for attention, she took off her shoe and thumped the glass till it shook in its thick steel frame. Her voice rose to a shriek as she repeated: "Give me it. Give me my hardship payment."

At last a member of staff appeared. "Would you like to sit down, or we'll call the police," she said. With an effort the woman lifted her leg and kicked the window and at once the confined space was filled with the jangle of an alarm.

The noise galvanized the rest of the room into angry support for the claimant. "Why don't you help her now?", said a young man, joining her at the window. "You've got the power to say yes or no."

But the woman behind the counter remained calm. "Unless

this lady leaves the room, nobody else will be served", she said.

A cacophony broke out as claimants realized they might not be seen in time. Sensing that she was beaten, the woman made for the door, but turned to point at the figures behind the counter. "I'll see you in hell", she said.

The frustration at a system close to collapse was apparent on both sides of the counter. Although Peckham is in one of London's poorer boroughs, it mirrors problems throughout the country as social security offices prepare for Monday's changes and what they fear will be a flood of angry protests, mainly directed at the staff.

"It's no use hollering at them", one claimant confided as the woman made her dramatic exit. "You can't get at them because they're all hiding in the back room."

Only two or three of the eight counters were manned at any one time, and the machine on the wall

indicating which ticket number was next turned over with agonizing slowness.

At 1pm, when the machine seemed to have been stuck on number 51 for 30 minutes, the tension could be felt.

Then a young mother got up in tears from the desk. After an interminable wait and 45 minutes of whispered conversation, she had been told to report to another office. The desk was immediately crowded with claimants clutching dockets.

By the afternoon the sun was shining and families had colonized large areas of Bleanheim Grove. For those without a ticket there was little chance of their making it to a counter, but there seemed to be nowhere else for them to go.

As one man left the building with his two children, he said: "I've been waiting five hours and I've had enough. It's ridiculous. They obviously haven't the staff."

Mr Samuel McGovern, aged 28, had been queuing since Thursday to secure extra benefits for his family. His neighbour remarked: "At this rate claiming benefit will be a full-time job."

Staff at the DHSS office had no word of hope for the claimants. One of the staff, who refused to be named, said: "Going over to the new system of income support is putting all the staff under enormous pressure. We just can't cope. We have built up an enormous backlog."

"There are thousands of pieces of mail outstanding for Peckham alone. We don't want to open the counters early, but we've no option."

On the wall at the Peckham office were several advertisements for new administrative officers. "The salary is £4,972", the posters said. Underneath, in black ballpoint was scrawled: "No good. Cheap (sic)."

Civil Service unions protest at 'dangers' from benefit reform

By Tim Jones and Andrew Morgan

Civil Service union leaders plan to hold a national "day of action" on Monday against the introduction of the social security reforms which they claim will place their "front line members" in more danger of violent attack from the public.

The union moves were disclosed as a second leading bishop in the Church of England yesterday criticized the Government's social security reforms, which are mostly due to be introduced next week, and described them as "iniquitous" and "un-Christian".

However, the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Ronald Bowley, declined to endorse the comments of the Bishop of Durham, who last week described the Government as "wicked" in its policies of restructuring the benefit system.

The two main Civil Service unions involved are increasingly worried that the trend of violence towards their members will increase dramatically because of the changes, which have been criticized for causing hardship among the young, the low paid and the needy.

They say the situation can only get worse because of the plans to cut Department of Health and Social Security staffing levels by 8,000.

In spite of campaigns by members of the Civil and Public Services Association, whose members man the counters at DHSS offices, and the National Union of Civil and Public Servants (NUCPS) to tell the public they are "carrying out policies which we fundamentally disagree", union members have been subject to violence.

Although staff at DHSS offices and job centres are protected by security screens and reinforced doors, some

work or attacked near their homes.

Last night, the NUCPS said: "The changes mean that our members will have to decide whether a pensioner should have a new roof or a cooker. It places our members in an intolerable position."

The unions claim the introduction of the Social Fund, under which one-off grants will be replaced with loans, will lead to more tension.

Mr Barry Reamsbottom, spokesman for the CPSA, said: "A situation which has increasingly been getting worse is now in danger of becoming appalling."

On Monday, union leaders will join claimants queuing outside the Bloomsbury DHSS office in London and staff will hold one-hour protest meetings outside the DHSS headquarters at Richmond House.

Bishop Bowley, chairman of the Church of England's Board of Social Responsibility, who was speaking at a press conference organized by the Child Poverty Action Group, said that increased wealth of the majority would not mean reduced poverty for the few.

He added: "The rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. The new Social Fund,

disgruntled customers have even produced guns when told they cannot be given any benefits.

At least two union members on home visits to assess benefit claims have been murdered. In other offices, staff have been threatened with knives after telling claimants that the rules forbid them from being assisted.

Offices have been petrol-bombed while some clients, "desperate for subsistence money", have used scaffolding to breach the security of buildings.

Some members of staff, after rejecting a claim, have been assaulted as they left

Maxwell quits trade body

By Richard Evans

Mr Robert Maxwell is resigning from the Publishers' Association - for the second time - weeks after his legal battle over the publication of two of his three biographies.

Mr Maxwell's son, Kevin, chief executive of the newly named Maxwell Pergamon Publishing Corporation, said in a letter to the trade body that the company would not be renewing its subscription because the association was not providing "value for money".

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US congressman meets Haughey in Dublin

Kennedy condemns 'occupying force'

By John Cooney and Sheila Gunn

Mr Joseph Kennedy, the US congressman, yesterday condemned the British military in Northern Ireland as "the occupying forces".

He made his comments outside the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin after being the guest of Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, at a lunch. In reply to a question asking whether he had been harassed by the security forces while visiting Northern Ireland, Mr Kennedy said: "I was harassed a lot less than the people in Northern Ireland."

His views were clearly influenced by his acrimonious exchanges with the security forces in West Belfast and Londonderry earlier this week and by his

observation of the heavy military presence.

Mr Kennedy's use of the language of Irish republicanism was seen as confirming the suspicions of Ulster Unionists that his four-day fact-finding visit was loaded in favour of the nationalist case for a united Ireland.

Mr Haughey avoided any involvement in the anti-British commentary, but told reporters that "a Kennedy is always welcomed in Ireland".

Mr Kennedy's reference to the "occupying forces" came when he spoke of his meeting in South Armagh yesterday with Cardinal Tomás O'Fiaich, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland. He said the prelate was somebody who recognized "the intransigence

of the British position and the tremendous presence of the occupying forces within his own county."

He said that the Irish and American governments should use their combined influence to put pressure on the British government to change the system of justice in Northern Ireland and to end job discrimination against Roman Catholics.

In London, Mr Tony Benn, the challenger for the Labour leadership, defied official party policy by accepting an invitation to share a platform with members of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA. Mr Benn is expected to see the meeting at Hammesmith Town Hall, west London, next Thursday to call for the removal of Northern Ireland from British jurisdiction.

Tories and Labour in poll tax tussle

By Sheila Gunn

The disputes over the Government's proposed poll tax took a new and bitter twist last night as allegations of "lies" and "blackmail" flew between the Conservative and Labour camps.

As Mr Roy Hattersley was unveiling details of Labour's alternative to the rating system, Mr Peter Brooke, the Conservative Party chairman, described Labour's latest attack on the poll tax as "an outright lie".

With local council elections less than a month away Mr John Prescott, Mr Hattersley's challenger for the deputy leadership, also condemned the "deep sense of injustice" provoked by the poll tax.

Speaking in Spennymoor, Co Durham, last night Mr Hattersley spelt out the new party policy for replacing rates with a mixture of property tax and local income tax. Business rates must be levied as a local tax with regular revaluations, he said.

Mr Hattersley described the

poll tax as "morally indefensible" because it made the poor pay more and the rich pay less.

Mr Brooke, speaking in Helmsley, Yorkshire, countered by stating that the national appeal of the poll tax had "begun to panic Labour".

"Their latest tactic is the outright lie. Their leaflets pile falsehood upon falsehood - that the community charge will restrict the right to vote, that our housing reforms will reduce the security of council tenants, and so on.

"These sort of lies are the actions of desperate men."

Mr Hattersley blamed the unpopularity of rates on cuts in government grants.

Mr Neil Kinnock is expected to reject advice that his security protection should be tightened after an attack on his home in Ealing, west London.

Although his aides refused to comment on the detailed arrangements, it is known that the Labour leader and his wife Glensy are reluctant to lose their privacy by allowing around-the-hour surveillance

Bodies of Alps boys are home

By Rosemary L'asworth

The bodies of the four Berkshire boys who fell to their deaths on a mountainside during a school skiing trip in the Austrian Alps were returned to Britain yesterday.

Their coffins were packed inside a crate in the cargo hold of an Austrian Airways aircraft.

Flight 461 from Southburg touched down at Heathrow at lunchtime, where the coffins remained until receiving customs clearance and being released for the return to Maidenhead, the boys' home town.

Prayers will be said for Lee Powell, aged 15, Andrew Watts, aged 14, Daniel Howton, aged 14, and Michael Taylor, aged 13, at All Saints Church, Boyn Hill Road, Maidenhead, tomorrow.

The boys, who fell 300ft to their deaths on the Untereberg, were among a party of 41 children from Ailwood Church of England primary school, Maidenhead.

They were on a skiing holiday in the Alps when the tragedy occurred.

Environmental health officers are aware of the risk posed by the vegetable, which has become popular in the north of England in a year or so. Sales are now worth £7 million a year and about 500 tonnes are produced each week for the British market.

There are hundreds of types of chalcid - which are used in any food as it is born through flies or urine - a bacteria varies in its toxicity. It is only dangerous to the old, the very young

ABSOLUTE DISPOSAL AUCTION PERSIAN CARPETS & RUGS BEING A LARGE INVENTORY OF VALUABLE HAND MADE IRANIAN CARPETS, PLEDGED AGAINST LOANS IN 1985 TO A FINANCIAL INSTITUTE, NOW FORFEITED AND ORDERED FOR IMMEDIATE DISPOSAL. ALL RUGS WILL BE REMOVED FROM SECURITY STORAGE TO THE SALE ROOMS OF A. WILLESLEY BRISCOM & PARTNERS LTD. Auction Sunday April 10th at 3pm. Auctioneers note: included in this magnificent inventory are 19th century pieces, caucasic, tribal and nomadic and silk pieces of high value.

Anger at lost satellite deal

By Sheila Gunn and Robert Matthews

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Trade and Industry Minister, was accused of incompetence last night for his failure to meet the deadline for deciding whether Britain will take a stake in the Canadian satellite project.

Mr Clarke, who is responsible for space policy, and Lord Young of Graffham, Trade and Industry Secretary, will be asked to give a full explanation to Parliament next week.

Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said he will ask Mr Clarke why he ignored the deadline of March 31, set by the Canadians.

"It looks like incompetence if they (Mr Clarke and Lord Young) believed they had more time", Mr Gould added.

yesterday the Canadians have been waiting since last June for Britain's decision on whether to collaborate on launching an Earth observation satellite Radarsat, which promises valuable contracts for British firms and, therefore, jobs.

Since the deadline had been passed with no answer they said they will look at alternative sources of help outside Britain and will probably buy a satellite "off-the-shelf" in the United States.

Ministers still believe that if they opt for the Canadian project within the next week their bid will be accepted.

Lord Shackleton, a former leader of the Lords, has accused Lord Young of "misleading" Parliament by telling peers the Government would

reply to the Canadians "in good time".

A DTI spokesman said: "To talk about one being ruled out is premature. An announcement will be made in due course."

A Russian cosmonaut yesterday expressed his sadness at the reluctance of British industry to sponsor six brilliant students to become the first undergraduates at the International Space University this summer.

Alexander Volkov, who in 1985 took part in the first emergency medical evacuation of a spacecraft when his commander fell ill aboard Salyut 7, met with the six hopefuls in London yesterday.

With no direct Government support, only three of the six can be certain to attend.

Earnings data 'out of date'

By Roland Rudd

The Department of Employment may be underestimating the rate of growth in average earnings by using outdated figures, according to a report by the independent pay research group.

It says in a report out yesterday that government figures have, by relying on employment data for 1981, failed to keep pace with significant changes in employment in the past seven years.

A rapid rise in service sector employment, coupled with an increase in earnings growth is not taken into account in the whole economy index, while the booming finance sector is under-represented, it says.

The group has calculated that the department's economy and service indices may be too low. The economy

index figure for December 1987 at 210.3 could be 1 per cent too low, and the recorded increase over the year at 8.7 per cent could be 25 per cent too low.

In the service sector, the earnings index over the same period, at 209.8, could be 1.5 per cent too low, and the annual increase at 9.2 per cent could be 25 per cent too low.

Each month the department samples 7,500 companies and employers to ascertain the total wage bill. The base is the 1981 census of employment figures.

Manufacturing, which accounted for just over 30 per cent of employees, has declined to 25 per cent, while the banking and finance sector, which accounted for only 4.4 per cent in 1981, more than doubled to almost 11 per cent.

In June 1981, the finance sector accounted for 8 per cent of all employees. By taking information only from insurance companies, brokers, banks, building societies and finance houses the department's figures under-represented the actual amount, the report says.

The department's average earnings index was also biased towards large employers.

The department is planning to re-base the average earnings indices soon, using the 1984 census of employment.

The department plans to increase the survey coverage beyond the 7,500 establishments.

Teach by... in nu... Children spend four after the school hours in the growing number of classroom violence incidents in nursery schools. Assaults by the young pupils were disclosed by a list of 100 incidents in a report by the Department of Education. The report says that the number of incidents involving children and staff has risen sharply since 1985. The report also says that the number of incidents involving children and staff has risen sharply since 1985. The report also says that the number of incidents involving children and staff has risen sharply since 1985.

Teachers attacked by pupils of four in nursery violence

Children aged four are attacking teachers as the growing wave of classroom violence spreads to nursery schools.

Assaults by the youngest pupils were disclosed yesterday as teachers at a conference in Blackpool listed violent incidents including beatings, kicking, attacks with scissors and knives, and being set upon with pieces of furniture in classrooms or school corridors.

Ms Cathy Hacking, from Keighley in West Yorkshire, said: "Nursery staff are seriously assaulted by their pupils and you can imagine the terror in the hearts of the other children."

"If a first-school child can inflict this sort of injury, what are they going to be like at secondary level if we don't do something about it?"

She was speaking to members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers. The union demanded urgent action by politicians, headmasters and parents to curb the menace.

The conference was told that some teachers are taking self-defence lessons to protect themselves.

Mr Keith Morris, aged 39, a teacher at the Bishop of Llandaff Comprehensive School, Cardiff, said of the older attackers: "Football hooligans who stand on the terraces on a Saturday afternoon are behind school desks on Monday morning."

"Police with dogs cannot control them yet teachers are expected to — and without any sanctions now that the courts have been beaten."

He called for Britain to consider schemes operating abroad, including Australian "sin bins". Disruptive pupils have to sign a document promising to behave before they are allowed back at school. Other countries withhold child benefit from the families.

Mr Brian Capel, head of the Cherry Orchard Middle School in Northampton, told delegates that a boy brought a four-and-a-half-inch knife

Charities that can find no one to receive thousands of pounds for educational purposes are listed for the first time in a directory published yesterday.

Some, such as the Lester Girls' Industrial Fund, which offers grants to "girls and women resident in Liverpool and the neighbourhood, under the age of 25", apparently have no applications as no one knows they exist.

In 1981, the last year the fund filed its accounts with the Charity Commission, it had an income of more than £1,000 but made no payments.

The Harry James Riddellston Charity of Leicester exists to make interest-free loans to people in the county aged between 21 and 35 who want to set up in business. In 1977 it had a £128,000 surplus.

Many charities, all of which are public bodies, seem excessively secretive. The Whitton Trust, for example, which is for the residents of Gainsborough and Lincoln, has filed no accounts since 1972.

The directory, which contains details of 800 educational charities, all of which have at least £500 a year to give away, was compiled by Mr Luke FitzHerbert and Mr Michael Eastwood.

The Educational Grants Directory (Radnor Works, Back Lane, London N5 1XL, £12.50).

into school to "defend himself" against a gang.

Mrs Sue Rogers said she once taught a class of 15 pupils in a Sheffield school where only three children did not have a criminal record. Their offences had included stabbing, attempted rape and petty theft.

Television violence is blamed for some of the problems. Mr Morris, secretary of the union's South Glamorgan branch, said children as young as six were watching such programmes until the early hours of the morning.

The conference decided to draw up a list of other countries' methods of fighting classroom violence.

A national inquiry into stress in the classroom should

be set up by the Government, the annual assembly in London of the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association said. It gave overwhelming backing to a call for a big research project.

In the meantime, the union is to set up its own counselling service and provide special training for teachers to help them to avoid stress as much as possible.

The conference assembly was told of a woman teacher from Buckinghamshire who committed suicide.

Mr Robin Pike, from Aylesbury Grammar School, said: "One in every 1,000 teachers in Buckinghamshire has died from stress-related causes in the last two years. If the same ratio of deaths were to apply to the county's schoolchildren, there would rightly be a massive public outcry."

There had been a "dramatic rise" in the number of teachers applying for early retirement and "a significant increase" in those leaving through ill-health.

"It is a major problem which is reaching crisis proportions", Mr Pike added.

Mrs Catherine Cattersfield, from Alderbrook Special School, Chinley, Derbyshire, said a third of all teachers suffered from stress-related illness at some time in their careers.

Mr David Ryan, from Brumby School, Scunthorpe, Humberside, blamed government education initiatives for much of teachers' stress.

Hopes of a merger between Britain's two biggest teaching unions, the National Union of Teachers and the NAS/UWT, were dashed yesterday for the second year running. A motion calling for amalgamation was supported by fewer than 20 of the 1,200 delegates at the NAS/UWT's conference.

College principals fear the destruction of the Inner London Education Authority's highly regarded adult education service, on which, they said, senior Civil Servants had told them there would have to be a spending cut of 70 per cent in two years' time.

Ready to serve with pride



Mrs Sara Jones, whose husband Colonel H Jones was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross in the Falklands conflict, stands with her eldest son David yesterday after he was commissioned as an officer at the Sovereign's Parade at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

David, aged 22, is joining his father's first regiment, The Devonshire and Dorset, as a second lieutenant platoon commander. It was a decision he took because of childhood memories of his father serving in the regiment, and he sees it as following the family tradition.

However, he said: "I am now seriously thinking about following in the path he chose and transferring to The Parachute Regiment if I can get in."

father died leading his men from the 2nd battalion, The Parachute Regiment at Goose Green in the first big battle of the conflict.

Yesterday 266 officer cadets passed out at Sandhurst where the Duke of Kent, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Devoo and Dorsets, took the parade. They have undergone six months' intensive training in all aspects of military life.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator



£152,000 for first winner

Mrs Jennifer Chelley (above), the first winner of *The Times* Portfolio Accumulator prize, was presented with her cheque for £152,000 yesterday by Sir Edward Pickering, the executive vice-chairman of *Times Newspapers Ltd*.

As she popped the cheque into her handbag, she said: "The first thing I am going to buy is a new handbag, and I think I will put something on the Grand National though I do not yet know what I shall back."

"I thought there was a lot of good advice in *The Times* business section about how the money should be invested, and I will be talking to an accountant. Perhaps I could come back when I have turned it into £1.5 million."

The £4,000 prize as the only winner of *The Times* Portfolio competition could not have come at a better time for Mrs Kristeen Hirsch of West Chilton, Pulborough, West Sussex, for she is about to move home.

She discovered her good fortune when going through her daily ritual, followed ever since the competition started, of checking her Portfolio card over breakfast.

She was being helped by her children — Kate, aged nine, Laura, aged seven, and Nicholas, aged four, who were as excited as she was.

Deadline

Mr Samuel McGovern had been queuing since 11.30 to secure extra benefits for his wife. His neighbour remarked: "You are claiming benefit for a time job."

Staff at the DHSS office had word of hope for the claimant named, said: "Going over a new system of income support putting all the staff under pressure. We just can't cope. We have built up an enormous backlog."

"There are thousands of people outstanding for their claims. We don't want to do them early, but we are waiting."

On the wall at the Peckham were several advertisements for administrative officers. "The Underneath" in black balloons crawled: "No good. Cheryl."



Yesterday (Photograph: Bryn Callaghan) church leaders had commented on humanism. "We have to be careful of the policies of particular groups but we have the right comment about the consequences of those policies," he said.

Miss Fran Bennett of the Child Poverty Group, conceded that there were some structural improvements in the system she believed they had introduced by the new requirement of linking resources available.

Bodies of Alps boys are home

The bodies of the first three boys who fell to their deaths on a mountain during a school sleep in the Austrian Alps returned to Britain yesterday.

Their coffins were inside a crate in the cargo hold of an Austrian aircraft.

Flight 461 from Salzburg touched down at Heath last night, where the bodies remained until removed to the airport terminal.

The bodies were taken to the mortuary at Heath, where they remained until removed to the airport terminal.

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Poisoning link with vegetable

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Contaminated beansprouts are thought to be the cause of an outbreak of salmonella St Paul poisoning in southern England. More than 80 people have been diagnosed since February 21 when the first case was reported.

About 100 cases involving the gastro-intestinal bacteria are usually reported each year.

Department of Health and Social Security officials are hoping to isolate a single source. So far the victims have shown a link in their consumption of beansprouts before they became ill, which may lead to one supplier.

The department believes that the vegetable, which has a shelf life of about a day, or the water in which the beans are grown, may be contaminated.

Environmental health officers are aware of the risks posed by the vegetable, which has become popular in the past five years. Sales are now worth £7 million a year and about 500 tonnes are produced each week for the British market.

There are hundreds of types of salmonella — which may grow in any food as it is borne through faeces or urine — and the bacteria varies in its intensity. It is only dangerous in the old, the very young or the infirm.

King's Cross inquiry Lessons from fires 'ignored'

By Tony Dawe

London Underground failed to respond correctly to fires at stations and to appreciate the dangers which led to the King's Cross disaster, the inquiry into the tragedy was told yesterday.

A lack of communication, coupled with incompetence, meant that the lessons of previous fires on escalators were not learned, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the inquiry, said.

Fires at Leicester Square, Manor House and Green Park stations in 1985 included the installation of smoke alarms, especially if staff cuts were to continue. They were ignored, Mr Henderson said.

A station foreman who resigned after the King's Cross blaze described the "total chaos" at a fire last June at Green Park Tube station.

Mr Gary Brown, who was off-duty, said Green Park staff were "totally hopeless" in dealing with the evacuation.

Mr Henderson read a letter, written by Mr Brown to London Regional Transport after King's Cross, in which Mr Brown expressed his anger at not being called before the internal inquiry into the Green Park fire.

"I feel revolted at working for such a degrading company", Mr Brown wrote.

The inquiry continues on Monday.

Underground staff and the fire brigade had called for improved cleaning, replacement of wooden materials, resetting of water sprinklers and installation of smoke detectors.

Cost, inertia, incompetence and some valid reasons had prevented recommendations being adopted, Mr Henderson told the inquiry in London.

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Fourth train rams buffers

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A train ran into buffers at Victoria station, central London, yesterday injuring five people — the fourth such incident in just over a year.

British Rail's Network SouthEast is investigating the crash. All four trains have been of the sliding-door class 455, introduced in recent years.

Yesterday's incident was at 6.40am when a train from Epsom pushed the buffers at platform 10 into the concrete, breaking up about six feet of concrete.

Five people were slightly injured.

British Rail said it was satisfied that the three earlier crashes were not caused by technical faults.

It believes the problems may arise from drivers having difficulty in adjusting to the new type of brake.

The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen says there may be technical problems. Last month it met managers from British Rail to complain that the disc brake system on the class 455 was not adequate.

Mr Derrick Fallick, assistant general secretary of the union, said there had been numerous occasions when trains had hit buffers because of "brake fade".

In 1986, throughout the network, there were 55 occasions when trains hit buffers compared with 60 in 1985.

Inflation nears 1967 level Young 'Mousetrap' and £1,000 semis

By Anthony Hodges

A lot has changed in two decades: South Africa played Test cricket, Cambridge used to win the Boat Race and *The Mousetrap* was a youngster at a mere 15 years old... and the inflation rate stood at just 2.8 per cent.

The announcement this week that the rate is now 3.3 per cent, the lowest since 1967, recalls those heady days when most of us lived in three-bedroom semis which cost between £600 and £1,000 while the rich splashed out £9,350 on a sixteenth-century farmhouse with a third of an acre of garden near Lewes, East Sussex, and the really wealthy could buy the 98-year lease on a five-bedroom new town house within 100 yards of Hyde Park for £27,000, including carpets.

Today the national average cost of a family home is about £57,000, while a Sussex farmhouse would set the buyer back between £180,000 and £270,000. The lease on a home bordering Hyde Park would be likely to cost around £830,000.

Of course wages were so much less then. The average shorthand typist would pick up £18 a week, while today,

with her word processing skills, she can earn £7,500, with free cruises, at a travel company, and up to £12,000 or £13,000 as a personal assistant.

Accountants then had a salary starting at £1,500 a year, whereas they can now earn more than that in a month. In 1967 the job of assistant director of the British Museum was being advertised at £4,260 a year compared with today's equivalent salary of £41,000.

We did not appreciate how cheap it all was when it came to furnishing our homes. In those days of pounds, shillings and pence, when guineas were all the vogue, English Rose would have supplied kitchen units for £328 15s 1d, with a Jackson Tophine Radiant 706 stove costing 70 guineas.

The same operation today would run up a bill in excess of £3,000 for English-buit units, or more than £7,000 if they were German, while the average gas cooker costs about £500.

The man in the Sussex farmhouse might well have had a £2,403 Jaguar 420G automatic standing in his drive but the equivalent car today, the Jaguar XJ6 3.6 manual transmission, would cost £20,400 with an extra £740 for the automatic option and £730 for leather seats.

The man in the Hyde Park home would of course have had a Rolls-Royce Phantom V touring limousine parked outside and probably thought the world was going mad as he wrote out the cheque for £10,695. Today, the Rolls-Royce Phantom VI costs a basic £166,000, with tax and VAT the final total is £207,331.58.

There was a petrol price war on in 1967 with the main companies slashing their prices by 2½d to 4½d (less than 1p and 2p) to around 5s 5d (about 27p) for premium grades and 5s for the cheapest.

Who knows what the future may bring? Perhaps in 20 years time people will be wishing they had invested in a Phantom VI or a Sussex farmhouse as they collect their £1,000,000 a year salaries.

Today is Daffodil Day

By supporting us today you can make an important contribution to the fight against cancer. It is estimated that over 30% of the population will contract cancer during the course of their lives. It's an alarming statistic, and one that demonstrates the need to fight cancer on as broad a front as possible.

But, with your help, we could do much more. Your donations will enable us to bring new hope and life to people with cancer we cannot currently assist.

Please give generously.

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE

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Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, 28 Beigrave Square, London SW1X 8QG.

Government loses again in fight to ban MI6 book

The Government yesterday lost the latest round of its court battle to prevent the publication in Scotland of the memoirs of Mr Anthony Cavendish, a former MI6 officer.

Three judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh rejected a government appeal against the refusal of a judge to grant an interim order banning publication of extracts from Mr Cavendish's book *Inside Intelligence*.

The Government had claimed that by writing the book Mr Cavendish had breached his duty not to disclose any information about his former work.

All three judges disagreed with some of the reasons given by Lord Coulsfield in February when he refused to grant the interim interdict against *The Scotsman* and the *Glasgow Herald* newspapers and Scottish Television.

They said, however, that he had reached the right decision in refusing to grant an order to the Lord Advocate banning further publication of extracts from the book.

Mr Arnold Kemp, editor of the *Glasgow Herald*, said the judgement would "naturally give satisfaction" in the Scottish press and media.

Lord Ross, Lord Justice

Clerk, said that at the earlier hearings it was not entirely clear what the Crown's position was in regard to the contents of the book. Mr Cavendish had sent out 279 copies to friends before Christmas.

It became clear during the appeal that it was not the contents of the book but the fact that it had been published by a former member of the security services which threatened national security.

If the Lord Advocate had been in a position to say disclosure would endanger national security the court would, because of public policy, have the power to stop disclosure.

It was one thing to recognize a power to restrict disclosure but it was another thing to suggest the court had power to stop mere publication where it was accepted that the contents of a book presented no danger to national security.

He disagreed with Lord Coulsfield that information ceased to be confidential once it had been published or known. In other words if the information was disclosed it did not bring to an end the obligation of confidence.

The Government's arguments might well have been convincing if a court order had been sought before any publication by Mr Cavendish, Lord Ross added.

"However, since such publication and disclosure had taken place, granting interdict now would indeed be closing the proverbial stable door after the horse had bolted."

Mr Kemp said: "I now hope that the Government will not only let matters rest there but will also drop the action for breach of interdict still outstanding against the *Glasgow Herald*."

A government spokesman said: "We will study the judgement in order to consider whether we appeal to the House of Lords."

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, said: "An appeal to the House of Lords would be cooking a snook at the Scottish Court of Appeal and the whole Scottish legal system". Mr Magnus Linklater, editor of *The Scotsman*, urged the Government not to appeal to the House of Lords in what he said was a "political vendetta" against the media. He estimated that the process had so far cost £250,000 - mostly public money.

Aid from a golden host



Some of the more than a million daffodils on sale today - National Daffodil Day - in 50 British cities to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The blooms are displayed by Miss Tessa Statham, a secretary at L W Van Geest Farms, where the flowers were grown.

Genetic engineering

Pestkiller may be drawn from scorpion stings

The sting of the scorpion has come under the scrutiny of scientists as a source of a revolutionary type of pesticide. Although more powerful than man-made chemical insecticides, it should be safer to use and better for the environment.

Before they can attempt to harness the scorpion's poison, the scientists have to carry out an experiment in genetic engineering for which they need the permission of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

They hope to start that experiment later this year. It will be the third phase of a research programme which could give Britain a world lead in a new technology that is about to have a big impact on agriculture, medicine and many industrial products and processes.

That transformation will come when genetically engineered organisms are allowed to be released from the laboratory. Many of those genetic creations have been made but most have been strictly contained.

Researchers working with Dr David Bishop, at the Natural Environment Research Council's Institute of Virology, at Oxford, are one of only five groups in Britain allowed to take genetically engineered microbes from the security of the microbiological laboratory.

They are also the scientists interested in transferring to very different sorts of organism the scorpion's ability to make its lethal nerve poison.

So far, the scientists have only been allowed to release genetically engineered bugs into a small cabbage patch to monitor the poison's life and persistence in natural conditions. Eventually, they aim to use the genetically engineered microbe, which belongs to a family of viruses called baculoviruses, to kill the pine beauty moth caterpillar. Such microbes do not infect humans or other animals.

The Oxford group hit on the idea of spraying the leaves of crops with baculoviruses. When caterpillars "eat" the leaves, they ingest the virus.

For safety, the viruses are altered so that they will eventually destroy themselves and not persist in the environment.

The cabbage-patch release established the principle of a virus-based insecticide that destroys itself after doing its job. The next stage is to develop a more rapidly acting organism.

Viruses may take several days or weeks to kill an insect pest, during which time it has damaged the crop. Chemical insecticides may act more quickly but they can also kill beneficial insects.

Hence, the plan is to splice into a baculovirus the gene from the scorpion which controls the production of the toxin that forms the sting in the tail.

A London dealer buys best China

The weak dollar continued to assist English trade in a sale of decorative Chinese works of art held by Sotheby's in New York.

Mr Martyn Gregory, a London picture dealer who has long championed the Anglo-Chinese works known as China Trade Paintings, took the best two on offer.

A view of the hongs, European factories at Shanghai, which was unusually large and was plausibly attributed to the Chinese painter Shuqua, went to him at £46,598.

It dates from between 1848, when the European church was completed, and 1857 when the hongs were burnt down.

Mr Gregory paid £17,474, about five times the estimate, for an 1850s view of Hong Kong in Gouache.

Two albums of Gouache drawings of the costumes of the various foreigners and minority peoples to be found in eighteenth century China sold for £81,546 at the sale, on Thursday.

Sotheby's also offered Old Master paintings in New York on Thursday, realizing a total of £839,547, with 14 per cent bought in.

A dealer from Italy paid £21,551 for a view of the Palazzo Ducale in Venice, catalogued as by Giacomo Guardi. There was some confusion here, as the catalogue gave Giacomo the dates of the better known Francesco Guardi.

In Edinburgh yesterday a Phillips sale included a group of four small China Trade views of Macan, which came from a collection of the Earl of Minto. Mr Gregory failed to secure these, since they went for about twice what he had expected, selling for £13,200 (estimate £2,000-£4,000).

The most expensive work, at £42,900, was also something of a surprise, not least for the owner, a doctor from Stirling who had thought it was a print. In fact his view of Utrecht under snow was an oil painting by Jan Hendrik Verheyen, and it was bought by a Dutch dealer against strong competition.

Another doctor, from Paisley, also did well with his "Lisbon with Mother" by the currently popular Dorothea Sharp, which made £24,200 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000).

Airport car park costs up by 74%

Businessmen using Heathrow's short-term car park for 12 hours are having to pay 74 per cent more than they did a year ago. The cost has risen from £7.20 to £12.50 a day.

The increases are part of a deliberate attempt to force day parkers to use the cheaper, but less convenient, long-term park. But they have infuriated regular travellers.

In April 1987, the cost of parking in a short-term park was £1.20 for the first two hours plus 60p an hour thereafter. Thus it cost a motorist £7.20 while he was away on a typical 12-hour business trip.

A policy decision taken last year brought in new charges and from April 1 motorists began paying £1.50 for the first two hours, £1 an hour for the next six and £1.25 thereafter: a 12-hour stay will cost £12.50.

The airport said yesterday: "We are using the price mechanism to encourage the use of the long-term car park which is cheaper and is designed to free the short-term car park for those who want to stay for less than two hours."

Long-term parks - where there are 9,831 places compared with 4,771 in the short-term ones - cost £2.50 for the first day and £4.50 each extra day. A year ago charges were £2 a day and £3.50 for each subsequent day.

"If you want to park for a couple of hours it is still cheaper at Heathrow than anywhere in the West End", the airport said. "As 70 per cent of our customers who use the short-term facilities stay for less than two hours we are providing a good priced public service."

Mr Michael Gee, a publisher from Potters Bar, said: "I need to have the car close to the terminal and these increases are hitting business people who already pay a high price for their flights."

Pavlova festival

The London home of Anna Pavlova, one of the world's greatest ballerinas, opens to the public for the first time next week.

Ivy House, in North End Road, Golders Green, north-west London, where the Russian dancer lived for almost 20 years, will be the setting for a festival celebrating the legacy she left to dance. She died in 1931.

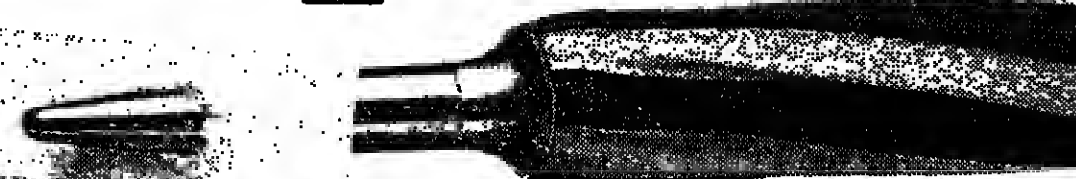
The festival, from Wednesday to next Sunday, will include exhibitions, masterclasses, lectures and discussions.

Sir Frederick Ashton, the patron of the festival, says Pavlova was "the greatest theatrical personality I have ever seen". Dame Ninette de Valois, a member of the festival committee, said she had inspired several generations to dance.

Devotees of Pavlova attend each January a memorial service at London's Russian Orthodox Cathedral.

Exhibitions at Ivy House will include Pavlova in England and the DBEs of the English Ballet.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Howe calls for West Bank talks

Singapore (Reuter) - Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said here yesterday that violence in the Israeli-occupied territories demonstrated the urgency for an international conference to solve the issue peacefully.

Iranians elect Majlis

Teheran (AP) - Iranians voted for a new parliament yesterday within hours of Iraqi missile attacks on cities, in an election that could help to determine the course of the country's Islamic revolution.

Talks on Lebanon

West Beirut - President Gemayel of Lebanon yesterday flew to Cyprus for an unexpected meeting with the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Police take on gangs

Los Angeles - A task force of 1,000 extra police will fan out through Los Angeles this weekend to try to curb escalating gang warfare and bloodshed which, according to one city councillor, is now worse than the violence in Beirut.

Elephant check row

Valence, France - Mr William Travers, head of the British animal welfare group Zoo Check, flew to the South of France yesterday to investigate the living conditions of the two elephants accompanying Ian Botham on his march across the Alps in Hannibal's footsteps.

Reagan ex-aide jailed

Washington - Lyn Nofziger, left, President Reagan's former White House political director, was sentenced to 90 days' imprisonment yesterday and fined \$30,000 (£16,000) for illegally lobbying Administration officials after leaving the White House.

Nixon expresses unease over Bush candidacy

From Charles Bremner, New York

As the Democratic contenders slugged it out on New York's ethnic battlefields yesterday, Vice-President George Bush, the Republicans' serene crown prince, was jolted by some cutting home truths from Mr Richard Nixon, who knows something about the rough side of politics.

"The prospect of George Bush as President seems to make everyone ill at ease, nervous," he said in the most direct public comment so far on the man whom he once appointed ambassador to the United Nations.

"What this country needs is a man like John Connally, mean and tough, who could go eye-to-eye with Mikhail Gorbachov and who could handle our economic problems." Mr Connally is the former Texas Governor who served as Mr Nixon's Treasury Secretary and has gone bankrupt recently.

ingly questioned. As president, Mr Bush would be trapped by the establishment and Washington bureaucracy, he added.

Mr Nixon offered his views in a remarkably candid interview with the Wall Street Journal before the Iowa caucuses in February but held back agreement until yesterday when it was released to coincide with publication of his book, 1999: Victory Without War.

Now aged 75, and still one of the country's shrewdest political minds, Mr Nixon accurately predicted the course of the race so far. Senator Robert Dole was "selfish and mean enough", but those qualities would cost him the nomination, he said.

In the thick of the New York campaign, Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts, the self-styled "inevitable candidate", received a twin boost from a string of local Democratic leaders and from

an opinion poll giving him a clear lead over the Rev Jesse Jackson, by 47 to 31 per cent.

But the one blessing that Mr Dukakis has been all but pleading for - that of Governor Mario Cuomo - was still missing. Mr Cuomo sowed further confusion about his intentions when he sent word from his Olympus-like throne in Albany to a gathering of Democrats at a Manhattan hotel.

Mr Laurence Kirwan, the party's state chairman and Mr Cuomo's messenger, said: "The Governor now feels that there are three candidates in this race and I want you to pick one of the three."

The third man, Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, came in for a fresh dressing-down from the Governor for his continuing offensive

against Mr Jackson, a tactic aimed at wooing the Jewish vote which accounts for 25 per cent of the Democratic turnout.

"It's a sign of political weakness to attack," Mr Cuomo said. "I'm saying to Senator Gore: Tell them about you. Let them understand how positive a force you are."

Mr David Garth, the local media genius who is now running Mr Gore's do-or-die New York campaign, hit back at the Governor, who also happens to be a close friend. It was ludicrous for Mr Cuomo to "come down from the mountain-top to give Gore a little kick in the head".

On his side, the newly-ecumenical Mr Jackson has been surveying the racial fray with regal composure. "Let us keep this campaign above any form of racial or religious bigotry or anything that incites such a reaction," he said in response to questions about Mr Koch.

rejection of the US peace initiative, much to the delight of Mayor Edward Koch. The Mayor, the Charybdis to Mr Cuomo's Scylla for the out-of-town campaigners, has been busy telling New York Jews that voting for Mr Jackson would be like being a black and backing apartheid.

But not all Jews are happy at Mr Koch's self-appointed championship. Mr Barry Feinstein, president of the powerful and notorious local Teamsters' Union, said he was backing the black candidate "and I am as Jewish as any Jew who ever lived."

Hot gossip, page 8

US prepares to take in defeated Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration is drawing up contingency plans for resettling 30,000 to 50,000 Nicaraguan Contras and their families, some of whom would be allowed to live in the US.

The move is an acknowledgement that the seven-year guerrilla war has almost certainly been lost and that the Democrat-controlled Congress is unlikely to grant further military aid, even if peace talks between the Contras and the Sandinistas collapse.

An Administration official said that "the Contra war is over" and that "perhaps the last service I will perform for the Contras will be to hand out green (immigration) cards".

He added that Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, believed that "anyone who wants to come to the US should be allowed to come in. I don't think that will be more than about 5,000". He thought that some would choose to go to Honduras or Costa Rica, with others preferring to return home under an amnesty.

The Administration was astonished that the Contras accepted the terms of the ceasefire agreement they signed with the Sandinistas last month. Senior officials are now particularly critical of the amnesty provisions, which they said were not even as good as those offered in previous peace talks.

Some officials still see a faint possibility that Congress will give military aid if the Sandinistas mount another offensive against the Contras. The rebels were driven out of northern Nicaragua last month and are now in their base camps inside Honduras, awaiting deployment.

Contra officials in the US insisted that they still had sufficient resources to restart the war if the peace talks failed, but acknowledged that supplies would be exhausted in a matter of weeks or months without US support.

In an election year there is clearly no possibility that the Administration would send troops to aid the Contras in the event of another Nicaraguan offensive across the border into Honduras.

American officials believe that the Sandinistas, who continue to receive huge amounts of military equipment from the Soviet bloc, could quickly overrun the rebels.

Congress last week approved legislation to provide \$47.9 million worth of non-lethal assistance to Contras and to Nicaraguan children injured in the war, but enormous logistical problems are emerging in trying to deliver any of it inside Nicaragua.

SAN JOSE: The US has, for the first time, taken steps to participate directly in the Central American peace process (Martha Honey writes). Mr Morris Busby, the Special US Ambassador to Central America, said after meeting President Arias of Costa Rica here yesterday, that the US was prepared to hold talks between Mr Shultz and the foreign ministers from the five Central American countries, including Nicaragua.

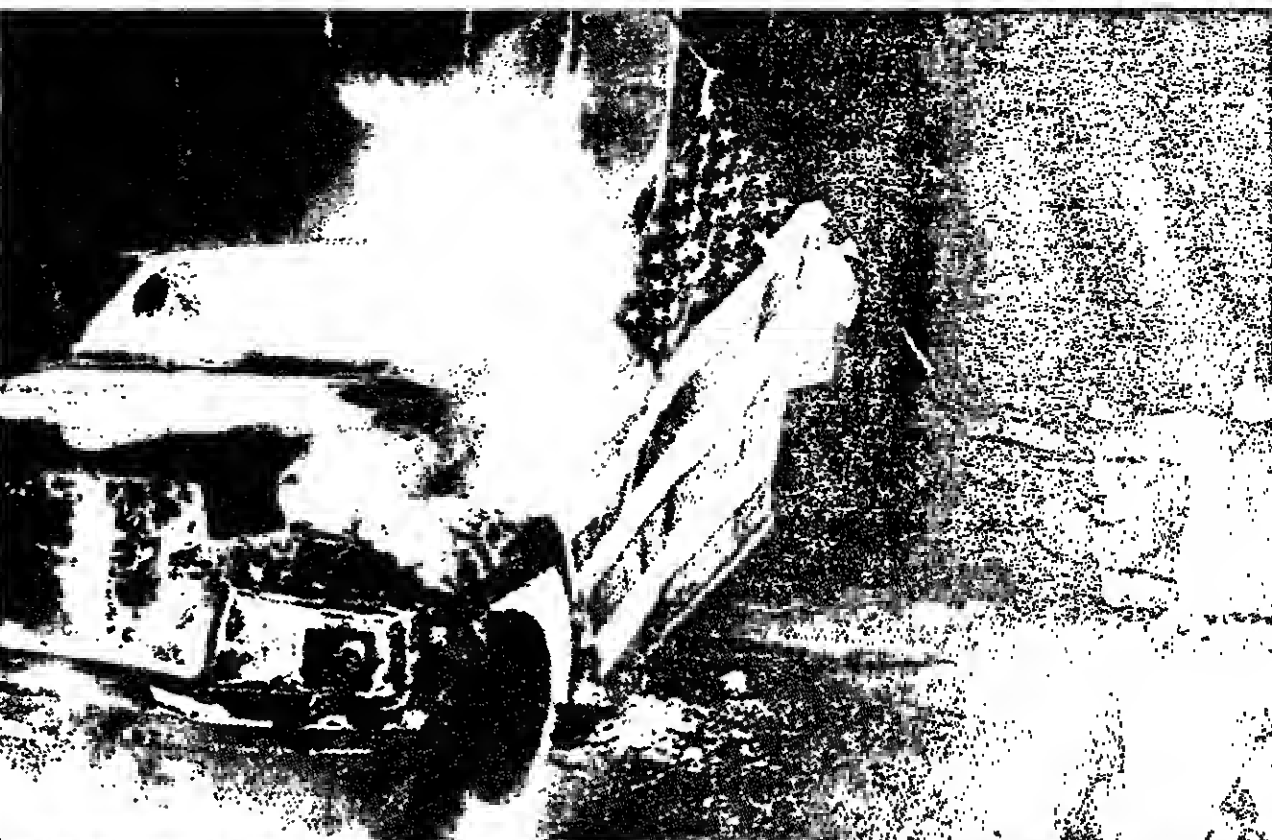
President Arias endorsed the proposal and offered to host the talks "soon" in San Jose. Local press reports said the talks would probably be held in June.

President Arias said this could be the first step towards talks between the US and Nicaragua. The Sandinistas have repeatedly called for a resumption of such bilateral talks, which the US broke off in 1985.

President Ortega of Nicaragua has not categorically ruled out multilateral talks. Over the last months, Nicaraguan officials have made numerous compromises in order to keep the peace process moving forward.

He said such talks should centre on US economic aid and on "demilitarization", including reducing the size of Nicaragua's Army.

He agreed that US humanitarian aid for the Contras could move through Costa Rica, and proposed that Nicaraguan children injured in the war be treated in Costa Rican hospitals, which are the best in the region.



Honduran students setting a US flag alight on a burning car during an attack on the American Embassy in Tegucigalpa.

Four die in drug arrest protest

From Martha Honey, San Jose

At least four Hondurans were killed and several injured when more than 1,000 rock-throwing students attacked the US Embassy in Tegucigalpa in protest at the handing over to the United States of a reputed drug trafficker.

The demonstrators, mainly university and high school students, broke windows and set fire to the US Embassy annex, burned several dozen cars in the embassy compound, and entered and began looting the building's ground floor, according to local press reports and people contacted in Tegucigalpa.

The crowd, shouting "bring us out of Honduras", marched on the university to the embassy on Thursday evening to protest at the US-engineered arrest and deportation of Ramon Matta Balles-

teros, whom Hondurans view as a sort of Robin Hood figure. Witnesses say the crowd began to disperse when shots were fired from within the embassy compound, apparently by Honduran security guards.

The US Embassy spokesman, Mr Michael O'Brien, said that the embassy was defended by US Marines and Honduran guards but that "absolutely no weapons were fired from either inside the embassy building or from the embassy annex building".

Mr O'Brien said US officials would hold "immediate consultations with the Honduran authorities" to determine why it took more than an hour for 100 riot police to arrive on the scene.

extradition to the US on Tuesday of Matta, a reputed leading Colombian cocaine trafficker whom US authorities suspect was involved in the 1985 murder of a US Drug Enforcement Agency agent. Honduras has no extradition treaty with the US and the Honduran legislative assembly and press has vigorously denounced his forced seizure and deportation by DEA and Honduran officials.

Matta had bribed his way out of a Colombian jail in 1986 and escaped to Honduras, the second poorest country in the Western hemisphere. He took out Honduran citizenship and became popular for his charitable works, including donations of school desks and medicines to the poor.

OBOGOTA: The use of extradition to bring international drug traffickers to justice was raised by the US Attorney General, Mr Edwin Meese, when he met Colombia's President Barco here during his current swing through South America to seek greater continental efforts to stem the flow of cocaine northwards (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

However, at a press conference at the end of his five-hour visit to Bogota Mr Meese seemed tacitly to recognize that, for the time being at least, it is highly unlikely that extradition will be revived between the US and the country at the centre of the international cocaine business.

Mr Meese said that members of the Colombian Government had expressed their satisfaction to him over the capture earlier this week of Matta.

Haunting images for Afghan pull-out

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

As the Soviet Army enthusiastically prepares to begin its pull-out from Afghanistan next month, two images will be uppermost in the minds of its commanders and their Kremlin masters about scenarios which must, if at all possible, be avoided.

One is the unedifying spectacle of the American helicopters leaving Saigon in 1975 with panicking South Vietnamese personnel clinging to the sides desperately in search of sanctuary; the other is the costly and undignified retreat which the Israelis were forced to make southwards from Beirut, harried by local resistance fighters.

The extent to which the withdrawal will be well ordered and relatively painless depends to a large extent on the details of the so far secret agreement between Moscow and Washington about the continuing provision of aid from either side to the Muslim rebels and the Kabul regime," one Western military expert explained.

"The greater the 'positive symmetry' that is allowed for, the greater will be the capability of the guerrillas to hit at the retreating Soviet soldiers. My hunch would be that the Mujahidin will save their effort until nearly the end, as they may not want to risk holding up the Soviet departure in its early stages."

Western diplomats based in Kabul believe that the main Soviet exit route, the road north from Kabul through the spectacular Salang Pass, is fairly defensible and should not present the Soviet forces with insurmountable difficulties, despite the guerrillas' threat to continue fighting during the nine months of the pull-out.

Similarly, the Afghan cap-

ital itself has seen its defences boosted in recent months in preparation for the retreat and as a move to strengthen the regime of President Najibullah against attacks which are widely expected to follow the first Soviet departure as the rebels try and force his overthrow. Much will depend on the loyalty of his 45,000-strong, mainly conscript Army, down to nearly half of its 1979 strength.

Although most diplomats still fear that a bloodbath will ensue in the vacuum left by the Soviet withdrawal - especially if the US is able to maintain a high level of arms supplies to the rebels under the Geneva accords to be signed next week - there is a growing recognition that the Najibullah Government may have greater resistance than predicted a few months ago. The unknown factor remains the depth of the factional differences inside it.

"There is no doubt that the Soviet side intends leaving

them vast amounts in the way of armour and material," another Western observer said yesterday. "This could enable them at least to hold power in the capital and to try and capitalize on the wide differences which also exist inside the seven-strong rebel alliance."

It is known that the Kremlin, although anxious to dismiss any attempts to draw a comparison between its departure and the US retreat from Vietnam, has contingency plans designed to assist its closest allies inside Afghanistan to escape in the face of a collapse of the pro-Moscow regime there.

Western diplomats have seen copies of special cards which have been distributed permitting certain selected members of the Najibullah Government access to Soviet-controlled exit points in Kabul in case of what is described loosely as "an emergency."

According to unofficial Western estimates, some

3,000 of these cards have been distributed, but it is not clear under what conditions they could be used. Among those understood to be included in the blueprint for transfer of personnel to the Soviet Union are all those Afghans who have married Soviet citizens since the Soviet Army's intervention in December 1979.

"At almost any cost, the Soviet Union will be willing to avoid a repetition of the scenes which took place around the US Embassy in Saigon. Under the circumstances given the strength of Kabul's defences, they may succeed," a Western diplomat said. "There are similarities between the two wars, but they are by no means parallel."

Although the Afghan watchers differ in their predictions about how smoothly the withdrawal can be accomplished, they are united in their view that the guerrillas will refuse to accept any government led by President Najibullah.

The President, who has

Four points of the accord

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The agreements in the Geneva peace accord on Afghanistan, to be signed next week and not later than Thursday - the US preference - are in this order:

1. A bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on principles of mutual relations, in particular non-interference and non-intervention.

2. A bilateral agreement between the two countries on the voluntary return home of Afghan refugees (3.2 million in Pakistan, 2.1 million in Iran).

3. A declaration of international guarantees (guar-

antors of the agreements being the US and the Soviet Union).

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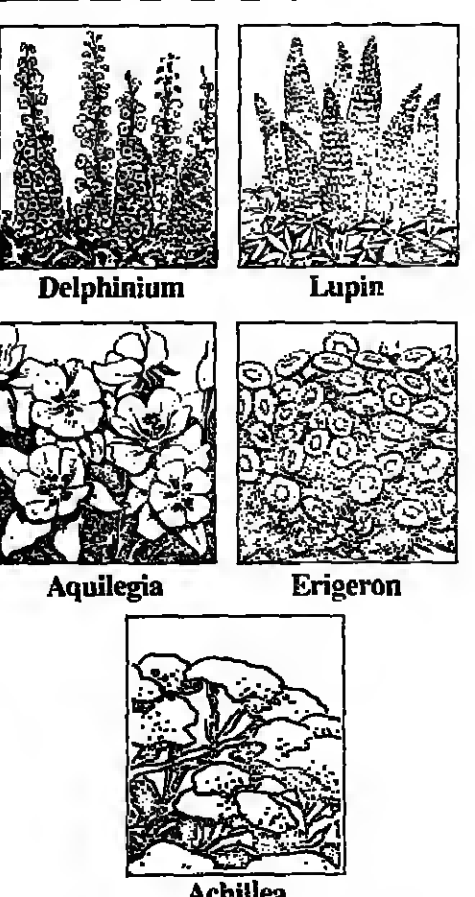
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Engineering...ller may...wn from...in stings

Science Editor...make its lethal...So far, the scientists have only been allowed to...genetically engineered...into a small cabbage...monitor the poison's...persistence in natural...conditions. Eventually, they...to use the genetically...engineered microbe, which...called baculovirus, to...the pine beauty moth...lar. Such microbes do...infect humans or...animals.

The Oxford group hit...idea of spraying the...crops with baculovirus...When caterpillars eat...leaves, they ingest the...viruses, which then...alter the DNA of the...viruses so that they will...naturally destroy themselves...not persist in the envi...ment.

The cabbage-patch...established the principle of...virus-based insecticide...destroys itself after doing...the job. The next stage is...to develop a more rapidly...acting organism.

Viruses may take several...days or weeks to kill an...pest, during which time it...damaged the crop. Chemi...cal insecticides may act...quickly but they can also...be beneficial insects.

Hence, the plan is to...into a baculovirus the...from the scorpion which...controls the production of...the toxin that forms the...tail.

Ion dealer...est China...SALEROOM...By Huon Mallalae

£21,551 for a view of...Palacio Ducale in Venice...asologed as by Giacomo...Guardi. There was some...confusion here, as the...catalogue gave Giacomo's...dates of the better known...Francesco Guardi.

In Edinburgh yesterday...Philips sale included a...of four small China...from a collection of the...Ming. Mr Gregory failed...to secure these since they...for about twice what he...expected, selling for £125... (£100,000-£150,000).

The most expensive...at £42,000, was also...of a surprise, but for...for the owner had thought...of Sterling. In fact his...was a print in fact his...direct under snow was...painting by Jan Hendrik...Vethuyden, and it was...by a Dutch dealer's...strong competition.

Another doctor, from...lev, also did well with..."Listen with Mother" by...currently popular Denis...Sharp, which made £25... (£100,000-£150,000).

car park...p by 74%...Air Correspondent

use of the...which is cheaper...signed to free...car park for those...study for less than two...hours.

Long-term...there are 4,000...pared with 4,000...form ones - cost £2...first day and £2...£2 a day and £2...subsequent days.

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Mr...isher...I need to...the terminal...creates...people who...price...

a festival...Sir Frederick...patron of the...Pavina...theatrical...ever seen...a member...festival committee...had inspired...to dance.

Devises of...each January...at London's...Orthodox...will include...and The...English Ballet.

Thatcher promises to help free EEC aid for Turkey

From Robin Oakley, Istanbul

Mrs Thatcher promised Turkey yesterday that she would help to unlock £375 million of EEC funds to assist the country's economic programme.

The funds, due under the so-called Fourth Protocol of Turkey's association agreement with the EEC, have been blocked at Greek insistence by the European Parliament. But relations between Greece and Turkey are thawing and Mrs Thatcher promised yesterday: "We are not blocking the fourth protocol. We would like it to come into effect. We shall do our best to get it unblocked."

Mrs Thatcher added that the release of the funds would be an appropriate "earnest of good intent" from the EEC in relation to Turkey's application for full membership, which is now being assessed.

The British gesture was seen as a *quid pro quo* for private assurances from Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, that bids by British consortia for a number of infrastructure projects will be received in a favourable light.

Later at a lunch in Istanbul given by the city's Mayor, Mr Bedrettin Dolan, Mrs Thatcher said that more could be done to make Turkey's association agreement with the EEC work better. "I promise you that Britain will be looking very closely at ways to achieve this, starting with this month's meeting of the Association Council in Brussels."

But Mrs Thatcher warned the Turks not to be in too much of a hurry over their

EEC application. She said that the European Commission was preparing its opinion on the application in the normal way. "It is bound to take time. The issues are complex and it is not in either side's interests to rush consideration of them," she said.

In an airport press conference in Ankara Mrs Thatcher lavished praise on Mr Ozal's management of the Turkish economy, which she said he had "transformed".

Although she said it was for all 12 EEC countries to decide on Turkey's eventual entry to the community, she said that Mr Ozal's stimulation of the Turkish economy "will be a great help".

Mr Ozal forecast that Turkey would be ready for entry to the EEC much sooner than anyone had expected.

On the thorny question of human rights in Turkey, which could cause complications with the application, Mrs Thatcher said she had discussed the question with Mr Ozal in the past. In a surprising tribute she said: "He is doing everything he possibly can to see all human rights are enjoyed in Turkey."

On the Middle East, Mrs Thatcher said that she wished Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, well with his initiative, but "it won't be solved until the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people are negotiated and met".

On Cyprus, she said that she and Mr Ozal both wanted to see a unified state with a

federal constitution, but the first stage was for the Greek Cypriot and Turkish communities on the island to talk directly to each other under UN auspices. It was out for Britain to bring about a new initiative.

● ATHENS: Greece has flatly rejected a proposal by Turkey for a meeting between Mr Ozal and Mr Andreas Papanastasiou, the Greek Prime Minister, with Mr George Vassiliou, the newly-elected Cypriot President, and Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish-Cypriot leader, to discuss the future of Cyprus (Mario Modiano writes).

"The Cyprus problem is not a Greek-Turkish issue," an official statement said. "Greece is not prepared to participate in any procedure that would imply recognition of Mr Denktas's sham state."

The proposal for a quadri-lateral summit on Cyprus was made by Mr Ozal during Mrs Thatcher's visit to Turkey. It appeared to be an alternative to President Vassiliou's request for a meeting with the Turkish Prime Minister, which Mr Ozal has so far spurned.

The Cypriot President was in London last week to put to Mrs Thatcher his argument in favour of his meeting with Mr Ozal rather than with Mr Denktas, who, in his view, was not qualified to answer questions about the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from northern Cyprus, nor the nature of international guarantees demanded by Cyprus.

Mr Ozal made his offer conditional on a prior meeting between President Vassiliou and Mr Denktas, but the Cypriot President has made it clear that this can happen only under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.

The Greek rejection of Mr Ozal's offer showed how much Greece and Turkey are still at variance despite recent vigorous efforts at reconciliation.

In fact, tension in the Aegean this week rose perilously in the course of mock dog-fights after Greek fighter planes intercepting Turkish aircraft for violating Greek air space locked their attack missiles on target when the intruding aircraft defied them.

Despite commitments by the two prime ministers to desist from actions likely to endanger the newly-found spirit of détente, Turkish warplanes have continued to assume that Greek air space over the Aegean islands is six miles, not 10 as fixed in a 1931 decree.

A Greek protest to Ankara yesterday was dismissed by the Turkish Foreign Ministry, which argued that, since Turkey recognized only a six-mile Greek air space zone, there had been no violations.

A joint Greek-Turkish commission of diplomatic and military officials which met in Athens last week to consider the problem of Aegean flights and exercises was unable to go beyond a restatement of diametrically opposed views.

The issue was referred to the foreign ministers, who are scheduled to meet in May.

Order of Malta gathers in Rome



Members of the Catholic order, the Knights of Malta, beginning their conclave yesterday to choose a new Grand Master.

Knights to elect Grand Master

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Hooded in black, 36 successors to the Crusaders yesterday met in conclave to elect the new Grand Master of the Order of Malta, a wealthy, influential charity that has the trappings of a sovereign state.

The 36 knights are the leaders of the 12,000-strong Sovereign Military Order. Some in monastic dress, others in civilian suits, the electors celebrated Mass yesterday and then filed into the first-floor council room of the order's sprawling Villa Magistrale in Rome to vote for the successor of Grand Master

Angelo de Mojana di Cologna, who died in January. It is the first such election since 1962 and the Grand Council Room has not been opened in 25 years. Yesterday, around a table decked with a scarlet tablecloth and the Maltese cross, gathered such figures as a Brazilian industrialist, descendants of the Prussian and French monarchs and an English school teacher, Mr Andrew Bertie.

Mr Bertie, as a Professed Knight — that is a knight who has taken monastic vows — is one of the 22 possible

coelectors for Grand Master. The betting, however, is on a Czech and three Italians. The eventual winner will be announced after approval by the Pope.

The membership of the order is still mainly aristocratic. But the need to operate so ambitious international charity programme — the order has 200 hospitals in about 90 countries — has led to a democratization within the order, bringing in wealthy non-aristocrats.

The knights trace their origins to the 11th century when a French monk established a hospice for sick pilgrims to the Holy Land.

The order has characteristics of a sovereign state — its own passports, embassies (in 50 countries), coinage, stamps and number plates on cars.

In recent years a number of false Maltese Orders have sprung up and have tried to sell essentially meaningless titles and passports. One of the first tasks of the new Grand Master will be to consult the special orders committee to decide on how to defend the knights from these pretenders.

Ankara modernizes

Waving flag for British firms

From Robin Oakley, Political Editor, Istanbul

Was Mrs Thatcher's journey to Turkey strictly necessary? It did not offer her dividends like the Moscow trip in the world spotlight, or even the January journey to Kenya and Nigeria, a useful defensive gambit to save her being accused at the next Commonwealth conference of lacking interest in Africa.

But leaving aside the need to keep the Prime Minister's restless energies engaged in the Easter recess, there were two explanations. The first was the chasing of contracts as Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, continues the modernization of his country.

His switch from an agricultural economy to an indus-

trial one to prepare Turkey as a candidate for EEC membership offers opportunities to British firms, and the days when only French leaders toured abroad with order book in hand have gone. There was nothing coy about the way Mrs Thatcher waved flags for British firms.

But these days Mrs Thatcher has another expert which she is interested in plugging: Thatcherism itself. When Mr Ozal visited London in 1986 she described herself as an Ozalite. What she meant was that he is an unreconstructed Thatcherite now putting his people through the austerity which she imposed in 1981 with Sir Geoffrey Howe. With Turkey and Britain the two fastest growing economies in Europe, the itch to see pure Thatcherism at work elsewhere was too much to resist.

Then there was Cyprus — where both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Ozal are taking refuge in the formula that it is for the island communities led by President Vassiliou and Mr Rauf Denktas to meet under UN auspices before there is any case for the involvement of Turkey and Britain as guarantor powers. Mrs Thatcher steered clear of pressing Mr Ozal to withdraw more of the 29,000 Turkish troops in northern Cyprus.

On Nato, Mrs Thatcher seems to have made little progress in pushing the Turks into greater military modernization and a willingness to accept more short-range nuclear weapon-launchers in the post-INF agreement world.

But above all, there was the EEC. The Turks are keen to win entry. Most EEC governments, still struggling with accommodating Spain and Portugal, are alarmed at the prospect of embracing a still-

poor nation with a fast-growing population. The population is growing so quickly that if Turkey entered today, one in three EEC citizens would be Turks by the next century.

As a long-time friend, Britain is in a special position, especially as a result of Mrs Thatcher's visit.

To win goodwill and bolster the hopes of contracts for Britain, Mrs Thatcher made encouraging noises about the Turkish application to join the EEC, emphasizing Turkey's existing links with Nato and the Council of Europe.

She endorsed the claim of Kemal Ataturk, father of modern Turkey, that "for centuries the Turks have walked from the East in the direction of the West".

So they have. Though 98 per cent Muslim, Turkey is a secular and democratic state with only a small minority taste for Islamic fundamentalism. The Turks, with their zest for life, even those Arabs who preach holy austerity at home and indulge in riotous excess in foreign capitals.

But there remain differences in democracy and human rights which could hold up Turkish entry to the EEC as well as economic considerations.

When asked about the recent arrest of two Christian evangelicals in Ankara for proselytizing their faith, Mr Inal Batu, the equable foreign affairs spokesman, told us: "If they were arrested they must



Mrs Thatcher: Waving flags for British industry



Mr Ozal: Pressing for early Turkish EEC membership

Maxwell likely to face veto over bid

Sydney — The Australian Government plans to block a £320-million bid by the publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, to buy the Melbourne newspaper *The Age*.

Mr Maxwell is understood to have offered twice as much as any Australian bidder, but the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, and Treasurer, Mr Paul Keating, both prefer a local buyer.

Locusts fear

Rome (AFP) — Swarms of locusts plaguing North Africa are expected to invade the central states of western Africa by the end of May or beginning of June, according to UN experts meeting here.

Braun letter

Munich (AP) — The last letter of Adolf Hitler's mistress, Eva Braun, written on April 2, 1945, seven days before a couple committed suicide, is expected to fetch £1,600 at a auction on April 23.

Defection ban

Seoul (AP) — South Korea is said to be studying measures to clamp down on political defections during the Olympic Games, which begin here in September.

Three die

Sydney — Three people trapped for several days by Australia's floods chartered a plane to get home and were killed when the aircraft crashed on landing at Coffs Harbour in northern New South Wales, after being caught in an electrical storm. Four passengers survived.

Delhi deal

Delhi (AFP) — India has bought nine of the latest British military Combat Engineer Tractors, and plans to buy 100 more to help it in its drive to clear obstacles in future battlefields.

Prawn pirates

Dhaka — Pirates in a coast mangrove forest in southern Bangladesh killed 15 fish mess and fled with their catch of prawns worth \$10,000.

... during ... future

Africa, was holding a seat at Odibo, on Namibia's border with southern Angola, show solidarity with the people who claim they are victims of atrocities by security forces.

Anglican bishops are holding their annual synod in Winchester next week. A spokesman for Archbishop Tutu said the Namibian episcopate had been chosen as a venue to mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 435 by the United Nations Security Council.

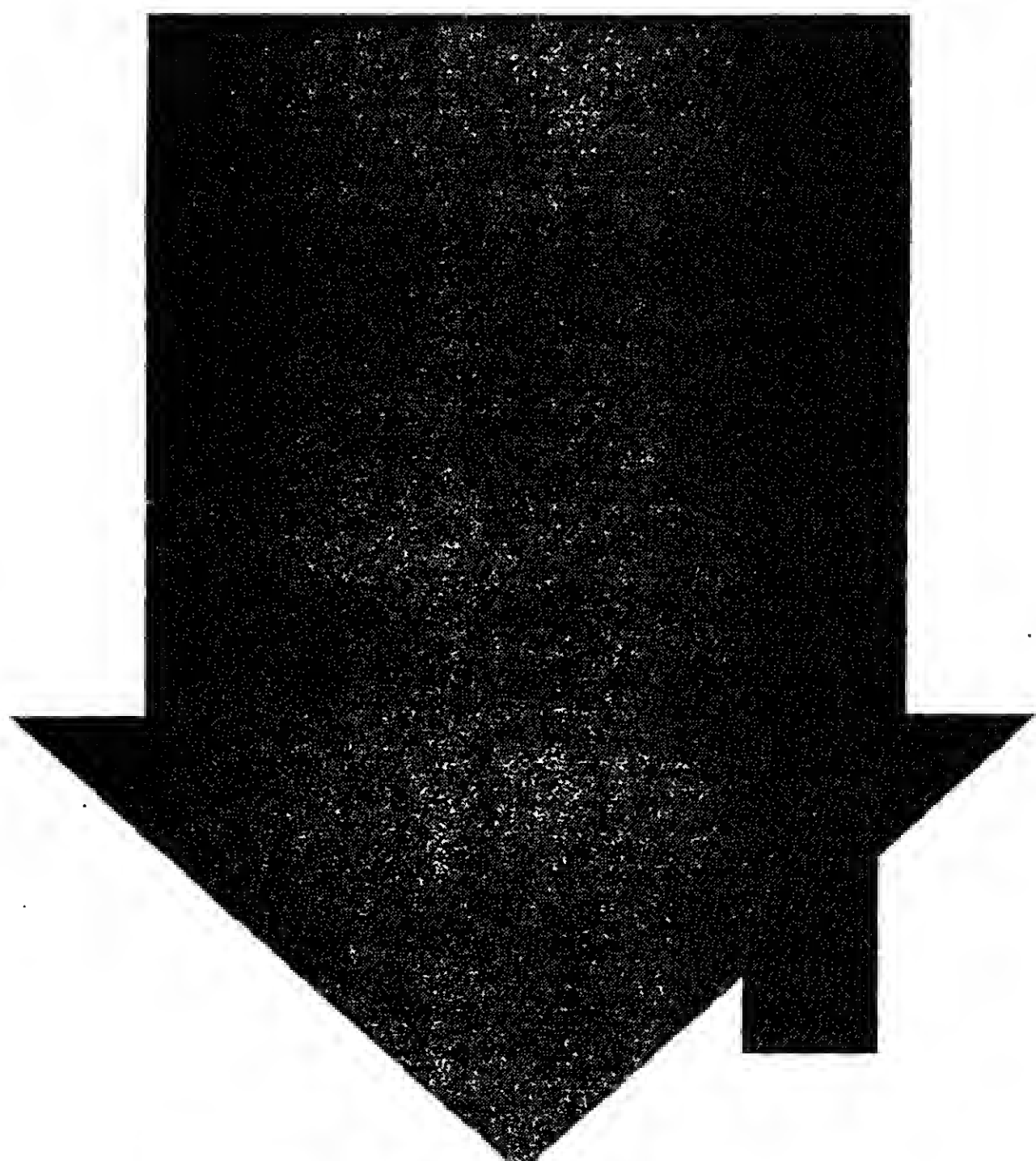
● JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's Ambassador to the UN was in Paris visiting a girl friend during the UN Security Council debate on mandatory sanctions against apartheid. It was reported yesterday (NY Kennedy wire).

Only days before the debate Mr Les Murray had delivered a speech written for him by the Foreign Minister, Mr Rik Pieterse, in which he said Africa should be the world's community to "do its own thing". Sources said that a few weeks Mr Murray had given permission to take a break, but that he had later told his secretaries it would coincide with the debate.

ical teams e-evaluated

drilling three holes in the wall of the passage leading to the so-called Queen's Chamber in the interior of the Great Pyramid after some preliminary readings indicated the possibility of unknown chambers. The holes were not more than 2in in diameter and some 4ft long, and were drilled through the thickness of granite wall to a space beyond — but had left space beyond to fear damage to the structure.

The Japanese expedition led by Dr Sakaji Yoshimasa scanned the pyramid for non-destructive, also known as magnetic device, which is believed may contain a treasure trove. The Japanese were seeking permission to excavate an opening in the passage at the top of the pyramid, when they discovered metal.



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PRESENTER OF GLOOM

Mr John Birt is journalism's Jeremiah. Just as the Old Testament prophet warned of Jerusalem's enslavement unless it obeyed his commands and followed the way of truth, so the prophet of the television age sees a stark choice ahead for his own spiritual home.

Unless journalists become less intrusive upon other people's privacy, more ready to correct their own errors, less willing to grind axes, and more sensitive to the public interest, the people's representatives in Parliament are likely to find laws to force them to become so. That was the essence of his Fleming Memorial lecture, published in The Times this week.

Such new laws, he argues, would restrict that part of journalistic activity which is currently legitimate and should remain so. This could spell a reversal for journalists' freedoms that have been hard won over the centuries.

As an occasional warning against the dangers of individual sin, this is fine. It follows the current theme of the minatory noises arising from the middle layers of Government too. In recent years there have been a number of ill-justified outrages by editors, writers and broadcasters. Anything to discourage their repetition is to the good.

Like other prophets, however, Mr Birt may find that he places too much faith in his powers. The fact that Jeremiah got it right is no guarantee for successors. The immediate prospect of legal retribution against the media along the lines suggested by Mr Birt is slight. Those who might be tempted to this course are still far from elected office. So when this threat quickly turns out to be empty, what then? Mr Birt's own practical suggestions are not convincing.

He proposes a grand Council of the Media — "a quorum of quangoes", as he disarmingly puts it — which would harmonize questions of editorship and ethics where there was a "need" to do so. Harmony would not be the most likely result if the questions were at all substantive; a lower public esteem for press and broadcasters more likely. Such a quorum risks doing for newspapers and television stations what the TUC's squawkers and fudgers have done for trade unions.

His proposals for a strengthened voluntary Press Council ignore the biggest difficulty about such bodies — how to impose standards upon those who do not wish to accept them. The plan for legally binding contracts would, it is true, allow the council to force those who accepted its authority to publish its judgements with the prominence it thought fit. This would certainly meet a common criticism of the present council — that its judgements are not taken seriously and are published by some newspapers, only with ill grace and in positions of great obscurity.

The real question, however, is left hanging. What happens to the behaviour of those who would refuse to sign such contracts and leave the council as a result? Would they not rather be all the less restrained, and the public good (as perceived by Mr Birt, at least) thus reduced?

For the Press Council a far better future would come if it were to raise its authority by intensifying its current efforts, by attempting to woo dissenters back to its ranks, persuading, cajoling, if necessary embarrassing. That should be the job for the new chairman of the council who is shortly to be appointed.

But the detailing of a reorganized press watchdog is, in fact, something of a diversionary tactic by Mr Birt. He has a mighty task ahead of him in rooting out the systemic failings of the BBC. A sharp attack upon the broadcasters' print rivals will help win backing for these internal struggles.

It is as a television man too (a long-time inhabitant of various rather similar ivory towers) that he reveals his greatest misunderstanding of his chosen lecture topic. He seems not to acknowledge the vast diversity of the British media, and the protection which that brings.

"In the end", he says, "society always brings down what the majority regard as the over-mighty — even kings or shahs with their near absolute powers." This may seem an unexceptional statement (though aficionados of futurology will note the convenience for all prophets — from temple-scourge to tea-leaf reader — of the indeterminate phrase "in the end") but in this context it is misleading.

The media cannot usefully be compared to a king, a shah, or indeed any single person or thing. To do so is a travesty of the varied ownership and management, natures and outlooks, of Britain's newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations. Journalistic virtues and errors are those of the good, bad, and indifferent individuals who work as journalists — and that is how they must be treated by their critics.

The philosophy of Mr Birt appears to predispose him to believe that the media has it within itself to become a tyrant. He likes a high degree of uniformity in journalistic standards. He clearly admires the major US papers which have manifestly less sensationalism and less variety too in their views of the world.

If the media were ever to become of one mind, that mind could become of a tyrannical kind. While it is of diverse minds, it cannot. Mr Birt should be more wary when he next feels like waving his big stick. In encouraging others to live up to his vision of BBC virtue he also gives succour to those who would prefer to impose a single vision of their own.

THE LONG ROAD FROM CAMDEN

There is something immensely satisfying about a politician, especially a politician of extreme temperament given to extravagance and (publicly-financed) gesture, suddenly finding that there is a personal price to pay for platform rhetoric. The preliminary decision by the metropolitan district auditor that Labour councillors in Camden may be individually liable for the £387,000 wasted by their delaying tactics in making 1985's rate cuts right.

It is a case of just deserts. Labour activists made speeches; they whipped up rent-a-crowd demonstrations outside Camden Town Hall; they shut their ears to the advice of the council treasurer and lawyers. Now, many months later, after the district auditor reviewed the voting records, and examined the accounts, he has established the bill to be paid.

The sight of Mr Neil Fletcher, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, being confronted with the prospect of surcharge, and potentially disqualification, is especially poignant. Mr Fletcher has, in recent months, worn the clothes of a moderate most becomingly, talking sense about schools management and contacts with industry.

But this is the same Mr Fletcher who, in 1985, sounded very different. The greedy white collar trade unionists in Nalگو, his own

employer, were then to be palliated at every turn. The Government was to be defied; Camden was to carry its opposition to rate-capping to the ultimate. The auditor has merely reminded Mr Fletcher of his past.

A preliminary judgement against Southwark councillors has already been made. The auditor has already received money from Labour councillors in Hackney. He is still examining the record of councillors in Islington. It is all a timely reminder that political office bears a heavy responsibility. The shadow of these adjudications will serve to keep councillors, not just Labour, in a more sober frame of mind as they go about making decisions involving the voters' money.

The prospect of sobriety may also, however, put councillors off standing for office. And here is where the auditor's action may give pause for the future. The actions of the Labour left have ensured that heavy weapons have been trained on all the people who make up local councils. The predominance in town halls of those who will not even buy stationery without consulting their lawyers will hasten further the decline of local government. The road from municipal socialism may be a long one.

NOT 1992 AND ALL THAT

Ever since William of Normandy liberated this country from the Anglo-Saxon tyranny in 1066, scholars have taken a remarkably one-eyed view of English history. Now, nearly a millennium later, a constructive effort is being made in Europe to correct this.

A proposal to be tabled at the European Parliament in Strasbourg next week, heralds the creation of Euro-history. A group of far-sighted MEPs, their gaze already fixed beyond the freer markets of 1992 to the time when the nation state is finally laid to rest, want to broaden the minds of the rising generation.

They are demanding that modern history be re-written, to put Europe in better perspective for schoolchildren — whose nationalism has previously grown unchecked. The French, the Spanish, the Dutch... are all in favour.

And why not the British too? Scholars, after all, already acknowledge that the result of the Spanish Armada was a draw — with the Spaniards having to play against the wind. Trafalgar was a minor naval skirmish, named after a well-known square in central London, while French children know that Napoleon won Waterloo — then died while on a holiday island in the Atlantic.

The First World War was a slight misunderstanding — and largely the fault of what we now call Yugoslavia. The second would have been averted if only Britain had accepted the German scheme for Europe's reunification.

This country's intransigence, encouraged by the Americans, was continued after the war by Winston Churchill (himself half-American) and Harold Macmillan — despite the hand of friendship proffered by Charles de Gaulle. It is friendship proffered by Mrs Thatcher, much the same today under Mrs Thatcher, whose attempt to undermine the Common Agricultural Policy, has resulted in Third World famine and foreign debt.

Yet, the MEPs will complain, few, if any, children in this country, whether in the public or private sector of education, are shown this clear-sighted view of their past. The fault is mainly that of William Shakespeare, the nearest English equivalent to Racine, who was commanded by Elizabeth I to re-draft history up to and including the sixteenth century. Sir Arthur Bryant, who replaced him, was also to blame.

The distortions imposed by individuals like these suggest that true wisdom will come only through re-writing by committee. That is the only way that future generations will ever appreciate the contributions made to Britain's heritage by the Italians under Caesar, the Danes under Canute, the French under William I, the Portuguese through Catherine of Braganza, the Dutch under William III and the Germans through George I. The Royal Family embodies the European Community.

The European Parliament should be encouraged, therefore, to form without delay a general committee, which would represent the collective wisdom of the EEC. Not only would each contribute his or her own national interpretation of events, but would add, like bouquet garni, a unique flavour to the whole.

The bumbling of the French, the sagacity of the Irish, the humour of the Germans, the imagination of the Dutch, the industry of the Spaniards, the efficiency of the Italians and the instinct for sensible compromise shown by Greeks, when added to the aestheticism of the British, should compile a most distinctive learned work. No people can contemplate the future with any confidence until they have secured the foundations of their past. MEPs now have the chance to shape our common destiny.

A step up for teachers' unions

From Ms Liz Forgan, From the General Secretary, Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, John Clare's definition (article, April 6) of what is meant by the new realism in education politics is absolutely right.

Rather than continue to imitate the industrial trade unions, the teachers' unions need to transform themselves into professional associations. Part of that transformation will involve a commitment to persuasion by reasonable argument rather than by other means.

One of the reasons the teachers' organizations have had less effect on the Education Reform Bill than might otherwise have been the case is that reasonable argument is not an activity to which they have devoted very much time in this decade, so they are out of practice.

Ten years ago, Ralf Dahrendorf used a turn of phrase which all those operating in the field of education politics ought now to adopt.

Writing to former students of the London School of Economics in his spring, 1978, newsletter, the director described himself as "a man of liberal convictions who profoundly believes in the force of argument over the argument of force".

I am convinced that most teachers in this country share that belief and wish those leading the teachers' organizations to conduct themselves accordingly as the nineties begin to beckon.

The cause of unity will be hugely advanced by the professionalisation of the teachers' unions. Once commitment to marching behind banners and the tactics of militancy are abandoned in favour of concentration on service to members and persuasion by argument, there will be every reason for the different teachers' organizations to come together and none to keep them apart.

When there is one organization to serve and speak for teachers, a great sigh of relief will be raised by the vast majority of classroom practitioners. In which the nation as a whole will without doubt join.

Yours faithfully, PETER DAWSON, General Secretary, Professional Association of Teachers, 99 Friar Gate, Derby, April 6.

Victorian values

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, The Master of St Catharine's, Cambridge (March 31) takes the Abbey National to task for abandoning its Victorian past.

As a direct descendant of William Cash who, with his cousin John Bright, MP, played a crucial role in the foundation of the Abbey National, I recall that they also espoused free trade and competition — "values which shaped social progress and economic success in Victorian Britain".

These are vital in the run-up to 1992 and the Abbey National, to survive and prosper, will be an increasingly competitive free market for money. They will also be adding to the nine million shareholders of 1988 and will bring with them the ethical principles which their founders stood for. I think they would approve.

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM CASH, House of Commons, April 4.

Homeless boats

From the Commodore of the Model Yacht Sailing Association

Sir, In reply to Vice-Admiral David Clutterbuck's letter (April 2) I may point out that our Round Pond clubhouse was demolished in October 1987, pending redevelopment of the area. For two years prior to this we negotiated with the Department of the Environment for a new building, but could make no headway.

With the help of the Minister of Sport, we have been able to obtain the use of a small, rather expensive clubhouse to be ready on June 1, 1988, sited at the top end of the paddock, to the north of Kensington Palace.

We hope to be sailing again in the late summer and would like to offer an open invitation to Admiral Clutterbuck to visit the clubhouse.

Yours faithfully, TONY GURR (Commodore, The Model Yacht Sailing Association), 158 Somerset Avenue, Chessington, Surrey.

The Rylands sale

From Lord Crawford and Balcarras

Sir, The University of Manchester defend their proposed sale of books from the John Rylands Library saying, *inter alia*, they have every legal right to sell. Perhaps they do — but such a sale will be widely, and I think rightly, regarded as a betrayal of the spirit of the gift of Mrs Rylands. It will also have practical implications which have not so far been mentioned publicly.

The library was founded on two collections gifted by Mrs Rylands. The printed books came from the Spencer collection. The manuscripts came from my family's library, the Bibliotheca Lindesiana. That sale was agreed on partially because it was seen as an opportunity that would never occur again — of ensuring that the collection remained intact and in Britain — a future which everyone had also, until now, assumed for the Spencer books.

Subsequently, about 45 years ago, specialised collections from our library were loaned to the Rylands. They are all of national, indeed international, importance. When there are such deep misgivings about the way in which the university now interprets its trusteeship inevitably the future of these collections which have been on loan for so long will have to be reconsidered.

The Rylands is one of the great libraries of the world. It is now very late, but the university should step back with the best of intentions they are proposing a sale which the bibliographical world condemns comprehensively. It is true they will raise a lot of money but the university library is in danger of losing a respect which is even more valuable.

Yours faithfully, CRAWFORD and BALCARRAS, House of Lords.

Looking in on court proceedings

From Ms Liz Forgan, Sir, The Criminal Bar Association's proposal (report, April 5) to examine seriously the case for televising court proceedings may or may not result in cameras in the Old Bailey, but the proposal itself is a breakthrough. For the first time a senior body of lawyers has come to terms with the idea that television is a vital source of information, not simply a medium of entertainment, and that open justice requires some form of television access.

In pursuit of that idea, Channel 4 has spent over three years and almost £1 million on painstaking reconstructions of court proceedings which we felt to be of such serious public interest that they needed fuller reporting than the few minutes most television news programmes could give them.

Each of these productions (with the exception of the Spynatcher proceedings in Australia) has been met with hostility by the presiding judge and court officers forcing us drastically to modify, or postpone until after the hearing, our transmission plans.

Of course we would not have gone to all the trouble and expense of reconstruction if cameras had been permitted to film the real events. However, as your admirable leader of April 6 fairly pointed out, there are real worries

about televising live proceedings and it may be that the balance between open justice and interference with the business of the courts sits against it. The Criminal Bar Association's study will give us all a chance to clear our thinking on the question.

But if the argument does go that way let it not be on specious grounds. Television journalists are no less skilled or scrupulous than their newspaper counterparts in the editing techniques required to ensure a fair and accurate report of proceedings. Recent trials have even offered a few examples suggesting forcibly to the contrary when it comes to the popular press.

Television cannot any longer be patronised by the judges as mere entertainment. It is the single most important source of information about the world they live in for a majority of the British people and if the courts of the land are to be "open to every subject of the king" we have to find a way of communicating the detail of those court proceedings on television — whether by cameras turning in court rooms or not.

Yours, LIZ FORGAN, (Deputy Director of Programmes), Channel 4 Television, 60 Charlotte Street, W1, April 7.

Electricity rebates

From Mr John Hannam, MP for Exeter (Conservative)

Sir, I was most welcome when your March 26 leader gave to British Telecom's intention to compensate customers for delayed repairs or connections.

However, I was surprised that the leader also suggested that these lessons should be absorbed for the privatisation of electricity. Similar ideas were actually pioneered by the East Midlands Electricity Board and their application to the whole industry after privatisation was announced by Cecil Parkinson at the last Conservative Party Conference. They were also set out in the White Paper, "Privatising Electricity", on February 25.

The White Paper and the proposals for customer rights have, in fact, been widely welcomed but particularly by the national Electricity Consumers' Council. Yours sincerely, JOHN HANNAM (Chairman, Conservative Backbench Energy Committee), House of Commons.

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Yours faithfully, CRAWFORD and BALCARRAS, House of Lords.

Black recruits in the Forces

From Mr Garry Burton, Sir, I am a black West Indian who served for nine years in the British Army with no untoward racial experiences or barriers to training, enlistment or promotion. I left in 1965 only because I wished to take a university degree. I had reached substantive senior NCO rank.

My support for ethnic monitoring of jobs and promotion prospects in the Armed Forces (report, March 28; leading article, April 5) comes, therefore, not from personal experiences of barriers during my Army career, but from a good officer's principle that the men and women must not only sense your fairness, they must see it practically applied.

Any unit of the Armed Forces can be badly run at any or several levels. When this happens, an unproductive build-up of bad feeling and bad relationships can seriously block the unit's effectiveness of line response in peace or in war.

Positive and explicit monitoring of promotion and job prospects for all serving soldiers can enhance morale. This will not replace the very necessary screening for specialists and promotion that is the basis of personnel selection, but there ought to be palpable equality of access to the screening process which should itself only comprise of relevant criteria and objective procedures.

Yours faithfully, GARRY BURTON, 14 Leyburn Road, Upper Edmonton, N15, April 5.

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Yours faithfully, WILLIAM CASH, House of Commons.

Bishop and sin

From Mr Peter Cotes, Sir, Is it so wrong for the Bishop of Durham to be concerned with sin (report, April 4; letters, April 6 and 8)? According to my Oxford Dictionary "sinfulness" is a form of wickedness. And a further description for wicked is *immoral*.

Dr Jenkins is properly concerned with morality. The Government constantly reads the riot act to the Church. Why wonder, then, if men of conscience sometimes (in the bishop's case, often), remind them that they do not suit their own actions to their words, nor their words to their actions? Yours faithfully, PETER COTES, Savage Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, Berkeley Square, W1, April 4.

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Yours faithfully, WILLIAM CASH, House of Commons.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 9 1951

The Grand National winner, trained by T. R. Rinehl, was ridden by J. Bullock who had served with an airborne division in the war and was taken prisoner at Arnhem. Nickel Coin started at 40 to 1; Arctic Gold was favourite at 5 to 1.

RACING

NICKEL COIN WINS GRAND NATIONAL

ONLY THREE FINISH

From Our Racing Correspondent

Mr J. Boyle's Nickel Coin ridden by J. Bullock and trained by J. O'Donoghue, won the Grand National at Aintree on Saturday by six lengths from Mrs. M. H. Keogh's Royal Tan, with Mr. P. Digney's Derriestown a remounted third. It was an even more astounding and disastrous race than when Tipperary Tim won in 1928.

We could hardly believe our eyes when only five out of the 23 runners passed the stands at the end of the first circuit with all the cries and hysteria of the steepchasing world on the ground behind them. Rain during the preceding night followed by showers had softened the going considerably, but it was by no means bad. A smoky haze over the course had lifted just before the race giving the best of visibility, and so far as one can judge the fences seemed no stronger than usual. Yet the field went down like nipeiras. Eleven disappeared at the first fence. An unusually early start may have contributed to their downfall. Some of the jockeys appeared to be still circling into positions when the tapes went up. They went away in much less of a line than usual...

Arctic Gold now had the racecourse nearly to himself. He was striking along on his bit with only a handful of pursuers. For a young horse the worst of all the Grand National jumps is the Canal Turn fence. He has to face a sea of shouting, gesticulating human beings drawn up ahead of him across his path, and his attention is more than liable to wander. Last year Angel Hill met her fate here, and now it was Arctic Gold's turn. He failed to measure his distance correctly and fell. Cloncarraig, coming up from behind, was hampered by a loose horse and fell also. Prince Brownie and Glee Fire added to the number. The 196-1 grey, Caesar's Wife, was now left out in front — but not for long...

THE LAST FIVE

The five still left on their feet as they passed the halfway mark were Gay Heather, Nickel Coin, Royal Tan, Derriestown, and Broomfield... The average price of the five beforehand worked out at 45-1...

Then the great race for home over the last seven jumps began between Nickel Coin and Royal Tan. They came on together, and none of us on the top of the stands could make our minds up which was going the better. They jumped about level at the last fence but one, and level again at the final one. But here Royal Tan made a terrible mistake. He hit it about halfway up, and it was a miracle that he did not fall. This decided the issue. Nickel Coin jumped it as cleanly as she had done all the rest, and away she went with a clear lead...

Yours faithfully, J. A. REYNOLDS, 46A Trevor Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

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chives, and finding the words, as economical as well's, with which to lay the enduring nature of those native language is Neoplatonic. Noam Chomsky has a... ironical about Western... give too much 'public'... Cambodian genocide... struck that the discover... Vietnam war, when a... convenience to deflect... to other things'. The... ways of the Western... are indeed far-reaching... Regis Debraj Western... of truth goes even... for him. Caring 'is... imposed by imperation...

I was not just... about it that called... Orwell's wrath, and... though Leo's is... called down by those... needs more to shape... fine edge of his scorn... corrupt use of language... undoubtedly knows... Politics and the English... guess by heart) and... language is for... communication, under... knowledge, learning... the advancement of... and its deepest concern... happens. Leo writes a... great clarity, suppleness... vigour, but even if he... fully mastered his... tongue he would still be... of clarity because of... his mind and thought... as they are by his... worship of freedom... implacable resistance... who would deprive us... As I write these words... in hospital I would be... to learn that my hear... nation of his achieve... might get him up and... earlier than the doctor... even by an hour, he... time for such champagne... to be laid low, I... back to the pathless... you being...

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lane

produced naturally in... hands (where it is... name "marsh gas") and... digestion of certain other... gases, among which... are conspicuous. David Lowe and his... at the Institute of... Nuclear Sciences at... Department of Scientific... Industrial Research in... Zealand have set out... the source of the methane... measuring the proportion... the three carbon isotopes... which it contains. Two... versions which are chemically... but which differ in mass. While all methane comes... the predominant isotope... has-12, methane from... has more than a few... wood years old contains... of the radioactive isotope... has-14, formed by cosmic... in the atmosphere and... is therefore contained in... methane given off by... plants and animals. On this basis, the... conclude that about... cent of the methane... from the burning of... fuels. Whether this is... had news is uncertain... is should be necessary... in coming... restrict the increase of... divide by constraining... use of fossil fuel, it... necessary by modifying... cultural practices. HENRY GE...

ENTERTAINMENTS

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BACH - MOZART - VIVALDI
WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 7.45
MENDELSSOHN - VIVALDI - BACH
SATURDAY 30th APRIL 7.45
CLASSICAL FAVOURITES
Programs for Victor Hochhauser at Barbican.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY
WEDNESDAY NEXT 13 April at 7.30 pm
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY cond
ITZHAK PERLMAN violin
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto and Manfred Symphony
Sponsored by Honeywell Bull

WIGMORE HALL
Programs for Wigmore Hall including various chamber music and solo performances.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
BARBICAN HALL
MONDAY 11 APRIL 7.45 pm
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS conducts
Programs for London Symphony Orchestra at Barbican.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL at 7.30 pm
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
Conductor: JANE GLOVER
GYORGY PAUK violin
TCHAIKOVSKY Suite No. 4 in G, "Mozartian"
DVOŘAK Violin Concerto
MOZART Symphony No. 38 in D, "Prague"

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 7.45 pm
BARBICAN CENTRE
The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport
The Entertainment Corporation presents
IDIL BIRET (piano)
with THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
DANCES OF GALANTIA
PIANO CONCERTO NO. 2
Sponsored by Midland Bank

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
THURSDAY NEXT 14 APRIL at 7.45 pm
Van Walsum Management presents
IGOR OISTRAKH
Only London recital this season
NATALIA ZERTSALOVA piano
Bach Beethoven Chopin Ysaeye

WIGMORE HALL
WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL at 7.30 pm
CHARLES CONCERT AGENCY presents
HEINRICH SCHIFF, Cello
ROGER VIGNOLES, Piano
Only London recital this season

BARBICAN CENTRE
TUESDAY NEXT 12 APRIL at 7.45 pm
Van Walsum Management presents
HEINRICH SCHIFF cello
HIROSHI WAKASUGI conductor
TOKYO METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Elgar Cello Concerto and Brahms Symphony No. 4

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
TUESDAY 5 MAY at 7.30 pm
HAPPY BIRTHDAY IRVING BERLIN!
A Country Tribute to the great American composer whose 100th birthday is being celebrated with ANNE HELEN and her band, CALL ME MADAM, HOLIDAY, TOP HAT and ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND, SAY IT WITH ME, I'VE GOT A FEELING, A FRETLESS GUY LIKE A MOLE, and many more!

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL at 7.30 pm
BARBICAN CENTRE
THE BARBER OF SEVILLE OVERTURE
MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC
PIANO CONCERTO IN F MINOR, OP. 11
BY FRANZ LISZT
PIANOLA IN F MAJOR, OP. 11
BY FRANZ LISZT
CONDUCTOR: MICHAEL REES
JOANNA MACGREGOR piano

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HEINRICH SCHIFF, Cello
ROGER VIGNOLES, Piano
Only London recital this season

BARBICAN HALL
SUNDAY 17 APRIL 7.30 pm
MOZART Schubert Violin Concerto No 5
MOZART Violin Concerto No 5
MOZART Violin Concerto No 2
MOZART Violin Concerto No 94
"the pianist I would most like to hear again"
The Observer

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
SUNDAY 24 APRIL 7.30 pm
ITZHAK PERLMAN
programme includes
MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL at 7.30 pm
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
Conductor: JANE GLOVER
GYORGY PAUK violin
TCHAIKOVSKY Suite No. 4 in G, "Mozartian"
DVOŘAK Violin Concerto
MOZART Symphony No. 38 in D, "Prague"

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 828 8555
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42ND STREET
A SHOW ABOUT THE FAMILY
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LAURENCE OLIVIER
BEST MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
DAVE WILLIAMS
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

NATIONAL THEATRE 836 8888
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
SUNDAY 24 APRIL 7.30 pm
ITZHAK PERLMAN
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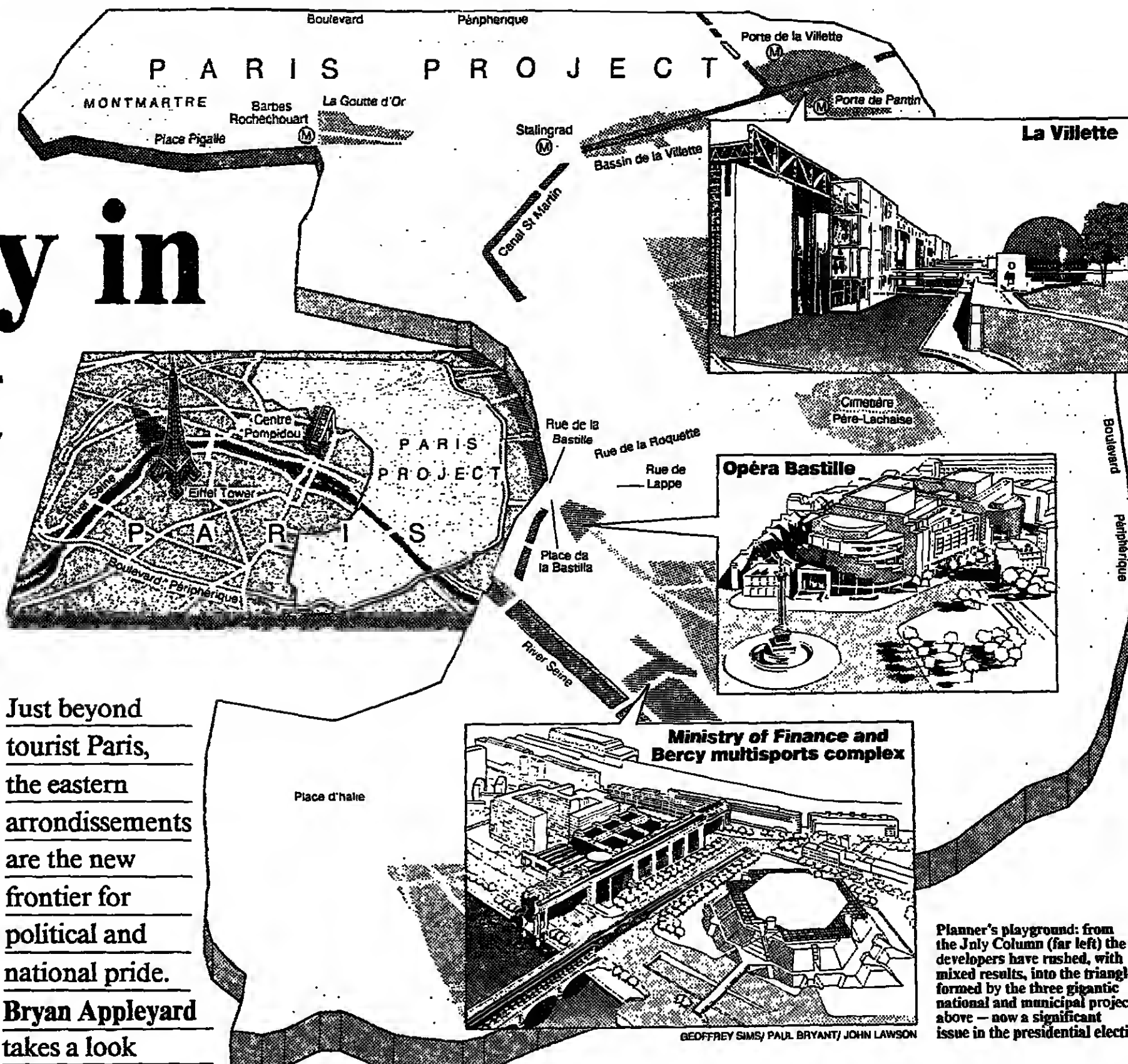
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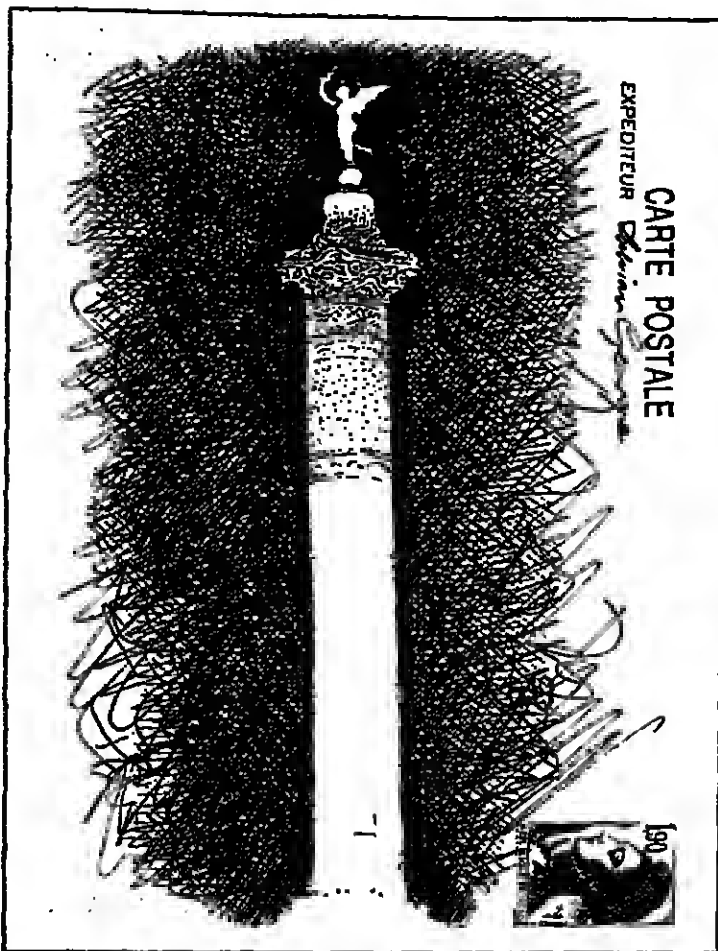
SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Going for glory in the east



Just beyond tourist Paris, the eastern arrondissements are the new frontier for political and national pride. Bryan Appleyard takes a look



Paris is obsessively adorned by her lovers. The Eiffel Tower, the Opéra, the Louvre and the Centre Pompidou are the costly trinkets offered by one proud fool after another. The world is invited to wonder at these lovers' excesses and to gasp at the generosity of a French Grand Passion, their profligacy in pursuit of la gloire. Yet Paris retains some nasty habits. When she is not being a grande dame in the Rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, she can be found in a leather mini-skirt winking at you from a doorway in the Rue St Denis. For, in reality, Paris does not stop, like the tourist maps, at the Place des Vosges or the Boulevard de la Chapelle. Beyond there, she continues eastwards into the altogether different landscape of L'Est.

Each time the surrounding tenements were converted into fashionable lofts and the beau monde moved in. But these areas were small, and increasing affluence meant that demand for both commercial and domestic property was high. In addition, last year, rent controls were abandoned and Parisians found themselves with doubled rent bills and a property price boom. The solution was to move East - down the Rue de Rivoli as far as the Place de la Bastille. And there, conveniently, the city's latest suitors were busily building her the biggest opera house in the world. It is here, on the eastern edge of the Marais, that the market and la gloire have come together to invade the East. It is not a promising place to start. The square itself is a daunting space where once the prison of the Bastille stood. Surrounding its centrepiece, the July Column, with its winged Victory, is a gigantic and appallingly busy traffic roundabout. It is on the south side of this windy enclave that the Opéra Bastille is being built.

surround it present as much of a design problem. Various schemes have been suggested but none, so far, has been decided upon. The real thrill, however, comes next. Take the Metro (direction: Nation) four stops north. It threads its way above ground through the nondescript blocks that fill most of eastern Paris. Then suddenly, between Quai de la Gare and Bercy, it leaps across the Seine and dips down on the far side. Here you will see two of the biggest buildings you have ever seen in your life. The one on the left is the new Ministry of Finance. Like a huge wall, it leaps three roads before coming to a halt on the banks of the Seine. None of this, however, has so far impressed the staff of the Ministry of Finance. They currently live in the Louvre and intend to stay there. For all the talk of revitalizing the East, the lunches and the shopping are still a good deal better on the Right Bank. If Mitterrand wins the election, they will probably have to go, as the new ministry is a presidential special. If Jacques Chirac gets in, however, there is talk of him letting out the new ministry as commercial offices.

able. The poor blacks and Arabs will have gone and the middle classes with the support of their politicians will have taken one more step to colonizing the entire area within the Boulevard Périphérique. These things happen, of course, but will the East compensate by taking on some of the grace and beauty of the West? So far it looks unpromising. The one unquestionably brilliant very modern building in Paris - Jean Nouvel's Institut du Monde Arabe on the corner of the Quai St Bernard and the Rue des Fossés St Bernard - is outside the area. Those inside L'Est do not yet look as though they can accommodate the old city of dreams: impossible, for example, to visualize a Phantom of the Opéra Bastille, though the Hunchback of the Bercy Multipoints Complex is just about conceivable. Meanwhile at Marne-la-Vallée, a new town 10 kilometres east of Paris, the first European Disneyland is being built: a

strange cartoon climax to the whole eastward momentum. But, until this all starts working and Gaultier moves to the Rue de Rappe, the heart of L'Est remains the great cemetery of Pere-Lachaise. The streets around here are peaceful and anonymous, restaurants half the price of those in the Marais. Nevertheless, les yuppies are said to be heading this way fast. But inside the cemetery itself, with the aid of a 10-franc guide bought from the tricoteuse at the gate, you can visit the graves of Molière, Proust, Acland and Héloïse, Delacroix, Ingres and, of course, Oscar Wilde. The avenues and passages of the old necropolis mimic the landscape of the living city outside. On the newer, northern side, where Wilde lies, avenues transversales cross the cemetery in a deathly pastiche of the great boulevards of the Right Bank. The French are rationalists to the end. They think you can plan everything, death included, and it is thrilling to watch them try.

Planner's playground: from the July Column (far left) the developers have rushed, with mixed results, into the triangle formed by the three gigantic national and municipal projects above - now a significant issue in the presidential election

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Win a holiday in Paris, page 16; summer skiing, page 14; the good beach guide, 16... THE VEERASWAMY

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1

For ski addicts, only

Even at the height of mid-summer the slopes can still hold their lure, reports Peter Hardy...



Far from the boredom of the beaches, the thrills of the piste... followed by a bask in the summer sun at one of Europe's all-year-round ski resorts

There is something wickedly decadent about elbowing a path through the Saturday morning crowds at Gatwick with a couple of pairs of skis over your shoulder...

If, like me, you shiver at the prospect of yet another ritual pilgrimage to overbooked Greece, or the overcrowded beaches of Iberia, where you wander in search of something - anything - to do after only 48 hours, then summer skiing could be for you.

There are at least 10 glacier resorts in Europe which offer good skiing for 12 months of the year.

There is, too, of course, also the southern hemisphere for those whose obsession with skiing outweighs financial caution.

Bariloche in Argentina offers excellent skiing from June onwards. The southern Andes look much like the Swiss Alps - fir trees, waterfalls, rustic buildings and all.

New Zealand offers, perhaps, some of the best skiing in the world. It is simply a question of who is prepared to go to the end of the world to experience it.

But you do not have to travel across the equator to experience out-of-season skiing, Europe has its own excellent resorts which function even when the tabloid headlines are ticking off the sunstroke cases in Greece.

The Stubai glacier above Innsbruck has the most extensive facilities and as many runs open in July as many a small winter resort.

other Ski Sunday racers training on the mountain, summer skiing is not only for experts.

Do not be put off by the word "glacier" which we tend to associate with K2 and the North Face of Mount Everest. You will not disappear down a crevasse unless you are foolish enough to strike out from the piste without a qualified local guide.

From Skishop 2000 at the top of the two-stage Mutterberg lift you can hire everything necessary from skis, boots, and poles, to ski suit and gloves.

Down in the valley in the village of Neustift your day begins early. You feel decidedly weird clomping down the dusty road from your hotel in ski boots and anorak past rich green meadows splashed with every hue of alpine flower.

The lifts open at 8.00am, and it is wise to board the gondola as soon as it starts to run. The skiing day is short in midsummer because in warmer weather the snow becomes too soft for pleasure skiing by early afternoon.

Up on top it can be as hot as 60 on any Spanish beach. By 11am, the sunbathers in the deckchairs outside the Panorama Restaurant have stripped off to reveal swim suits and bikinis beneath their skisuits.

It can, however, snow in even July or August. It is always wise to be prepared for a chilly day on the mountain even if it is as hot as the South of France at breakfast time on your hotel patio.

As in winter it is advisable to wear several thin layers of clothing rather than one thick one. You can then take off, or put on, whatever you require as the temperature fluctuates during the course of the day. It is sensible to take a small rucksack in which to carry the excess.

By lunchtime the summer sun has turned to the consistency of a champagne sorbet too long out of the fridge. Then it is time to retire to the terrace of a mountain restaurant for a long lunch.

Outside a fleet of £100,000 piste-bashing machines are already hard at work preparing the slopes for the following day. With the help of the dramatic fall in temperature each evening to well below zero the snow

is remarkably reconstituted daily for the next batch of skiers.

The Stubai glacier claims to be Europe's biggest summer ski area, but also in Austria there are all-year resorts at Hintersee, Solden, and Kaprun.

Switzerland offers Saas Fe and Zermatt, and in France you can ski at Les Deux Alpes, Alpe d'Huez, and Tignes. In Italy there is also good summer skiing to be had in Cervinia.

TRAVEL NOTES

Alpine Tours of Ashford, Kent (0223 54382) are the summer ski specialists for Austria. They also offer one-week race training or freestyle courses which add excitement to your holiday. You do not have to be a budding racer - just an intermediate who wants to get off the intermediate plateau where most recreational skiers stay forever.

interesting tour operators in France specialise in Les Deux Alpes (01-699 7666). For Costa Valley and Cervinia, contact the Italian State Tourist Office (01-408 1254). Other useful numbers: Austrian National Tourist Office (01-629 0481); Swiss Tourist Office (01-734 1921); French Tourist Office (01-499 8971); For the Southern Hemisphere contact the Ski Club of Great Britain (01-245 1033).

TRAVEL NEWS

A new liberalized air agreement will produce a major expansion of scheduled services between the UK and Canada this summer.

The Canadian airline Wardair (0345 222333) is converting its long-standing programme of charter flights out of the UK into a scheduled operation, with daily services from Gatwick to both Toronto and Vancouver, as well as direct flights to Toronto from provincial ports such as Cardiff, Newcastle and Birmingham.

Another Canadian carrier, Nationalair (0444 415551), is introducing scheduled services from Gatwick to Hamilton, near Toronto, in May and is offering a special £190 return fare for all departures next month.

Air Canada (01 759 2636) will operate 14 flights a week from Heathrow to Toronto on a weekly Super Apex fare of £229 return on one weekly service compared with the normal £279.

Southern comfort

A new low-cost air route to the south of France starts on April 20 when Euro Express introduces the only charter service from the UK to Marseille, with weekly departures on Britannia Airways from Gatwick. Fares range between £99 and £135 return and accommodation packages are also available. Information: 0444 340566.

No problem

Last week's failure of the Spanish charter airline Spantax seems unlikely to pose too many problems for British holidaymakers. Spantax had only 15 flights a week out of the UK and tour operators have well managed to contract alternative flying, although there will probably be changes in timing.

Blooming idea

Visits to some of the best known National Trust gardens, in Devon are included in a five-night package starting on June 5 arranged by the trust's Devon region in conjunction with the Thurlestone Hotel, near Kingsbridge. The cost of £290 includes all tours and garden visits and there will be

Philip Kay

TRAVEL BOOKS

London - Louise Nicholson's 'Dedalus Guide' (The Bodley Head, £5.95, published on Thursday) is subtitled 'The essential manual for everyone visiting or living in London'. A formidable self-endorsement, but not far off the mark. There is a wealth of facts about how to get the most out of the city, from accommodation and baby-sitters to a month-by-month guide to events and what to do when it rains. On top of all that, there are a dozen walks given in long and lively detail. Use it on your next day off.

A rash of tourist guides has appeared on Turkey, but R.A. Butler's 'Where to Go in Turkey' (Settle Press, £6.99 paperback, £12.50 hardback) is better than most. There is a 'Which Resort guide, pointing beach huns and walkers in the right directions, run-down on the regions, and a good pocket history. The comprehensive Food and Wine guide will take you through the minefield of a restaurant menu, and to finish off there is an excellent short guide to tourist Turkish.

Jenny Tabakoff

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

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SELF-CATERING SWITZERLAND. Gstaad area. Includes a list of destinations and prices.

TRAVEL 2

مكازم الأهل

In Allah's kingdoms

On visiting the Arab Emirates, Michael Watkins faces death from yawning, and joins in a feast of fresh goat

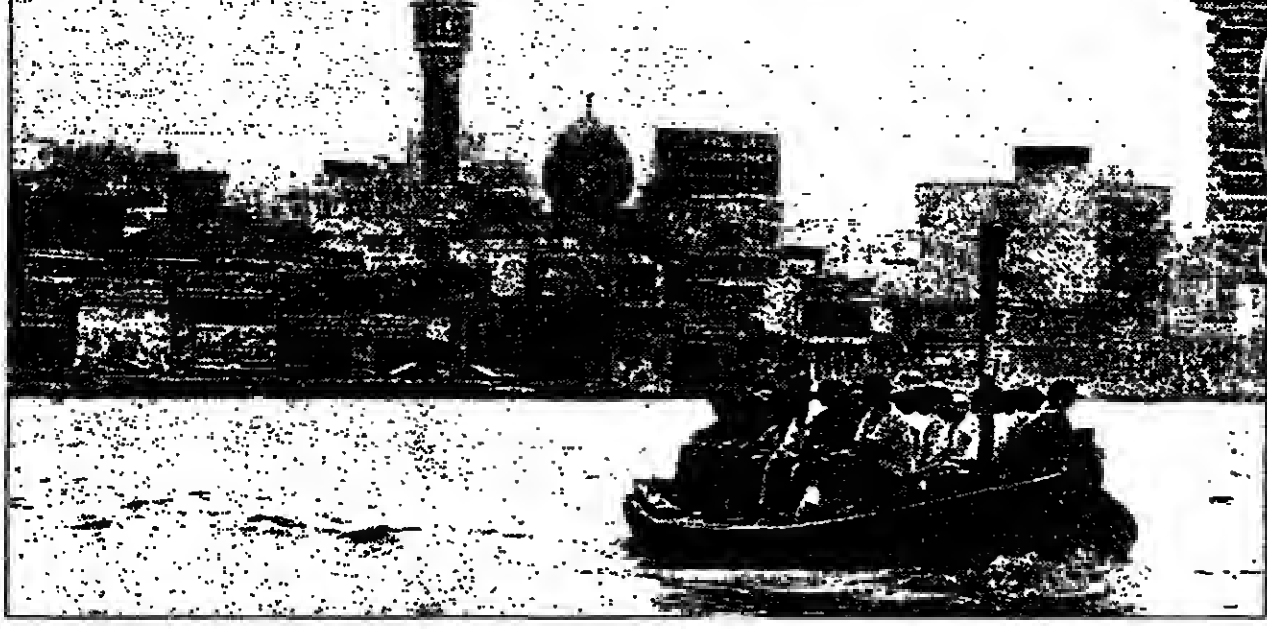
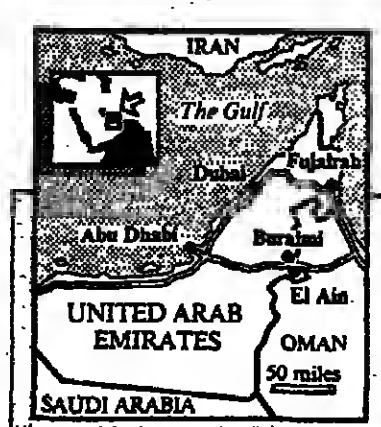
STEPHEN MARKESON

A Sudanese receptionist checked me into the hotel, while a Filipino carried my suitcase. In the bar I drank Dutch beer while a German maître d'hotel took my order for dinner served by an Indian. Enjoying the wine of Bordeaux, I was subjected to Simon and Garfunkel numbers sung by Mike and Julie from Sheffield. My wake-up call came from a Chinese telephonist and I drove into the city in a Japanese taxi with a Pakistani at the wheel. The riddle is: where was I?

No, not Hammersmith. Dubai - one of the seven desert sheikhdoms covering an area two-and-a-half times the size of Holland, once the backward Trucial States, now in their 16th year as a federation. Where else is the indigenous local inhabitant outnumbered six to one by expatriates? Where else is it unsurprising to see goats transported on the back seat of a showroom-fresh Mercedes? My address was the Dubai Hilton without which the streets of Dubai would be littered with corpses. Cause of death? Boredom. Transfixed by a yawn. When you've finished counting the flies, there is nothing else to save you.

In the early years of this century 6,936 pearl divers made a living from Dubai waters; then, in the 1930s, Japan captured the market with cultured pearls, leaving Dubai ignominiously shifting desert sands and to the whims of shiftless British overseers. Two things eventually happened: Britain pulled out in 1971, and the Emirates struck oil. Both were mixed blessings. Sheikh Shakhbut, the former ruler, was so apprehensive about the effect of wealth on Islamic traditions that he is said to have hoarded bank-notes in a room in his fortress until mice nibbled their way through a fortune. This aversion lost him his sheikhdom, power being transferred to his younger brother, Sheikh Zayed, architect and first president of the federation. Shakhbut, an old man, lives in the oasis of Al Ain, his three predecessors having been assisted on their journey to Allah's bosom by assassination.

I crossed and re-crossed the Dubai Creek by abra, water-taxi. It seemed a very put-together city. It didn't feel like Arabia; it didn't feel like anywhere I knew or deeply cared to know. At the Hilton beach club I heard an English company wife complaining that what she really missed was Marmite. I was taken to a dinner party given by Bill and Jean, a nice couple who had faithfully reproduced Esher in their air-conditioned, hermetically-sealed villa. Both worked long hours, six days a week. "It's all free," Bill said. "The house, car, no income-tax. We don't spend a penny of our salaries; when we've saved enough we'll go home and start something." Impulsively, an old nursery song hummed through my head: "When, little hen,



Ships of the desert: A crowded river taxi, or abra, takes travellers across the Dubai creek, a young jockey waits for the start of a camel race outside the city, and (below) proud parents stroll in the sun

when, when, when, will you lay me an egg for my tea." The road to Abu Dhabi was strewn with wrecked cars, the landscape charred like overcooked omelette. There was nothing to stop for, to look at. The city itself was amazing. Twenty years ago the bedouin camped here, fishermen lived in tents, building dhows; today a burnished sun is refracted off marble and glass surfaces, off aluminium. It had nothing to do with the Arabian Nights. They say that Sheikh Zayed is a true bedouin, flying his hawks, riding with the best of them, joining the circle at the camp fire. Then why all this?

The why is the emergence of a welfare state of hospitals and education. The cost, unless I am wildly off the mark, is a cynical tolerance of Western ideals. Yet there are signs that the party is flagging. The petro-dollar is less shiny than it was, the Gulf War won't go away. If you look at a map you'll see that El Ain is about as far as you can get without spilling into the Sultanate of Oman. A few kilometres from the oasis town I

found handfuls of fossils. We stopped at an oasis, teetering over planks above a ravine perhaps 200 feet deep. We stopped at a remote wadi, starting a fire to grill sausages, preparing to swim in chill water that tumbled from a waterfall. It was one of earth's empty quarters. From somewhere or from nowhere, three Omanis appeared dragging a goat. Saluting us, they immersed themselves in the pool, sharpening a knife. The goat bleated for a second, no longer, pumping its blood hard and rhythmically, clouding the water. The Omanis skinned the beast and invited us to share their meal; it is the least that an Arab can offer. Since it was obviously the thing to do, I even went to the ice-rink. In this ice-rink is a door marked Praying Room. As in each Hilton room, there is a sticker with an arrow emblem pointing towards Mecca. Oh yes, we'll complete their "infrastructure", install the highest of high-tech and take good money for our pains; but we'd be suckers to think we're teaching Arabs the blumest fact of life.



Ships of the desert: A crowded river taxi, or abra, takes travellers across the Dubai creek, a young jockey waits for the start of a camel race outside the city, and (below) proud parents stroll in the sun

TRAVEL NOTES I flew from Gatwick to Dubai with British Caledonian in approximately seven hours. £1,575 first class return. Pax fares from £470 return. The journey I made, with Hilton International's assistance, was 900 kms by road. Hilton will tailor a similar seven-day trip, their Arabian Experience, for about £270 per person (excluding air fares). Enquiries from Hilton International, Sovereign House, 212-224 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EQ (01-379 4828). I would avoid self-drive: accidents are numerous, an additional hazard provided by straying camels, which are difficult to see on desert roads and in sand-storms. Best time: November to March. Summer months can be unbearably hot and humid. Israeli stamps in your passport are inadmissible to U.A.E. Immigration authorities. Tourists are not allowed to bring alcohol into the Emirates.

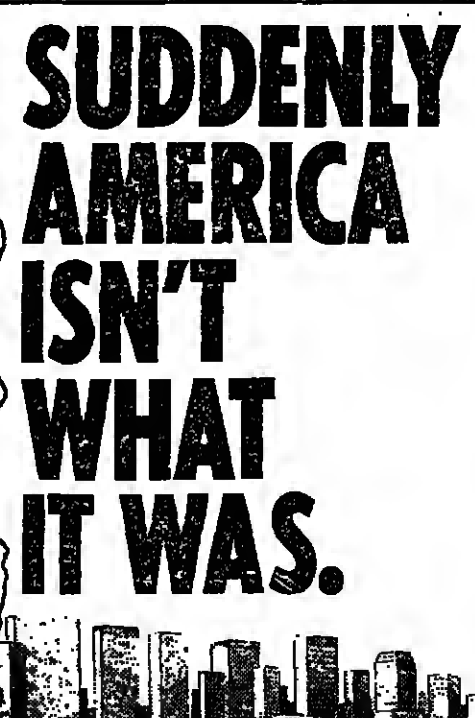


NING hology Thermal Reactors Group... During this period he was particularly associated with work on the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) at Calder Hall... Fenning returned to the UK in 1966, and was appointed deputy director of UKAEA's research group... Fenning's early experience put him in a strong position for the major contribution he made to the development of atomic energy in Britain... He leaves a widow, a son and two daughters.

KARD Bishop Suffragan of Abombo. It was a case of great elation. In his report to the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel - to which he looked for financial support - for the year 1987, he noted evidence of a spirit of "renewal" in the congregations thanks to the efforts of his new deacon. And, he added, "there is encouraging news from the 'war area' in the district of Messumba. Terrorism persists and guerrilla warfare is still going on, but despite this the work of the Church continues". In 1968 he resigned a provincial executive officer of the Province of Southern Africa and an assistant bishop of Johannesburg, which position he held until 1981. Soon after, he returned to England and to the diocese of Worcester as an assistant bishop. He was unmarried.

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

Advertisement for HOLIDAYS & VILLAS featuring various holiday packages and travel services. Includes sections for HOLIDAY ACCESSORIES, SPRING BREAKS, CHANNEL ISLANDS, EAST ANGLIA, CHILDRENS HOLIDAYS, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, SUDDENLY AMERICA ISN'T WHAT IT WAS, UK HOLIDAYS, and FREE ROOM FOR THE KIDS.



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TRAVEL 3

This way to the best of our beaches

If you live on an island, the beach will always be a special and symbolic place: the edge of things, the frontier between the known and unknown world.

Libby Purves dips a toe into the pages of a bracing new guide to the British seaside

line, managed 34. Even so, more than a third of the British beaches didn't manage to get clean enough to meet the European standard (based on frequency of faecal coliform bacteria) by the deadline of 1985.

It seems rather sad, therefore, that increasing numbers of Britons never go anywhere near their own native sands, but pack themselves into steel tubes and fly away to nasty, gritty, tideless Mediterranean beaches.

The Marine Conservation Society launched a hard-hitting publicity campaign last year to persuade the Government to give the water authorities enough money for proper outfalls and processing, saying with some force that otherwise "we will continue to let our children play on beaches amongst the old toilet paper, faeces, and used condoms."

shock. They also produce unnerving evidence of marine pollution from industry and shipping; and not only in well-publicized disasters, either. Any seasoned beach-walker knows about the sticky lumps of oil discharged routinely from tankers to choke seals and immobilize seabirds, but they cite in addition the clouds of coaly water off Durham, tin mining waste in Cornwall, the run-off of nitrates and phosphates from agricultural land, and countless legal and illegal discharges of chemicals from industry.

It is against this dual background of the glory, and the filth, of our coastline that a refreshing little book has just been published in aid of the Marine Conservation Society entitled *The Good Beach Guide*. Dr Anne Scott, the author, set out to map the location of beaches worth visiting: 169 of them dotted all around the British coastline.

researchers find unacceptable sewage, oil, or litter on a "bathing beach", she does not list it but merely marks it with an unflattering little symbol of dead fish and old bottles. Alas for Ilfracombe and Ventnor, for Great Yarmouth and Scarborough, Blackpool, Cowes and Colwyn Bay. On the other hand, there are dozens of beaches not even monitored by the water authorities but which, nonetheless, the guide considers good and clean.



BEST BEACHES

NORTHERN IRELAND

White Park Bay, Londonderry. Long curve of white sand backed by dunes and circled by chalk cliffs.

SCOTLAND

Muchalls, Stonehaven. Spectacular stretch of coastline. No swimming, due to dangerous rocks offshore.

Coldingham, Lothian. A half-mile crescent of sand bounded by rocky outcrops below the headlands sheltering the bay.

Gullane, West Lothian.

Beautiful and completely unspoilt sweep of flat beach backed by a dune ridge.

Beinakeil, Dumfries.

Clean white sand, unspoilt and quiet even at the height of summer.

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

Lulworth Cove, Dorset. Dramatic cliffs and rock formations. Shingle beach margins the round bay, ringed by cliffs.

Newquay, Cornwall.

Foremost Cornish holiday centre. Famous for its safe, sandy beaches with booming surf.

Priest's Cove, Cornwall.

200ft of shingle ringed by low

rugged cliffs around toe of Cornwall. Has escaped the commercialization of Land's End. Plantlife marine life on rocky shoreline.

Happisburgh, Norfolk.

Continuous gently sloping sandy beach backed by clay cliffs and sand dunes, dominated by lighthouse.

EAST

Bridlington, North Humberside. Two safe, sandy beaches separated by Bridlington Harbour. North beach sheltered by sheer white cliffs.

Studland, Dorset.

Designated as area of outstanding natural beauty. Four miles of excellent sandy beach.

SOUTH EAST

Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex. Quiet pebble beach, with white chalk cliffs stretching away east to Beachy Head. Rock pools.

Hastings, East Sussex.

Three miles of pebble beach with sand exposed at low tide.

Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Shingle beach behind wide sea wall protecting the town.

Bamburgh, Northumberland.

Four miles of superb beach with sand which squeaks when walked over.

WALES

Czoch Bay, West Glamorgan. Superb beach, with very fine, soft sand. Devon coast can be seen on the horizon.

Marloes Sands, Dyfed.

A mile of flat, golden sands. Entire beach disappears at high tide. Cars must be taken.

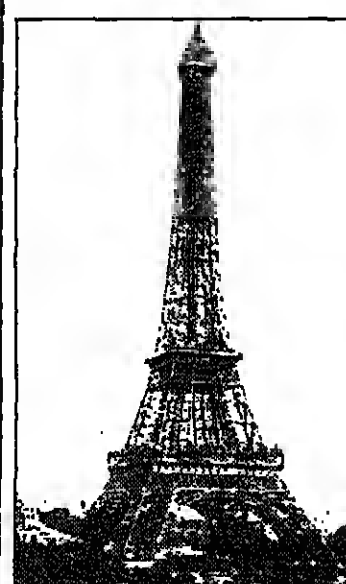
Llandudno, Gwynedd.

Two-mile, sandy beach is fringed by a wide promenade overlooked by elegant Victorian houses.

Nash Point, South Glamorgan.

One small area of sand. Beach otherwise composed of large flat rocks where impressive, layered limestone cliffs have been eroded backwards.

Win a weekend in Paris for two



How well do you know Paris? Prove your knowledge of the French capital and The Times will give you the opportunity of visiting this fascinating city in the spring.

Hotels in France, the UK representatives of the Inter Hotel chain, are offering two weekends for two in any of their hotels in the capital. As Hotels in France specialize in flexible holidays, you can choose your hotel and your mode of transport. You can fly (from Heathrow or Gatwick), go by train and ferry or take your own car and explore the French countryside on your way down.

Each winner will receive a copy of The Times Bartholomew Guide to Paris - from which the questions are taken - and 10 runners-up will also be sent a copy of the guide. This book is available from bookshops in a series of guides to European capitals.

- QUESTIONS: 1. Name the Bishop of Paris who was later to become patron saint of Paris. 2. From which point in Paris are all distances within France measured? 3. Who created the tree-lined avenue, later to become the Champs Elysées? 4. In which gardens is the Eiffel Tower situated? 5. In which church can you find Napoleon's tomb? 6. Where was the guillotine situated for two years after the execution of Louis XVI in 1793? 7. Name the oldest bridge in Paris. 8. What is the name of the arts and culture centre built on the remains of the "beaubourg"?

Send your entries to The Times Weekend in Paris competition, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 3XN, to arrive not later than April 18. ANSWERS: 1. ... 2. ... 3. ... 4. ... 5. ... 6. ... 7. ... 8. ...

Here it must be said that some of us shrink away from the idea of being directed to a beach and given "environmental education". There is something faintly Swiss and institutional about it which does not quite fit in either with one's desire to tramp alone along the shingle, or with the gentle Edwardian idyll of candyfloss and donkeys and picnics by the rock-pools. A Eurobeach, in any case, sounds like a contradiction in terms: on a beach, we celebrate above all the fact of being a contrary-minded offshore island. However, since our contrary-mindedness in this respect seems to have done nothing but turn the seashore into a national disgrace, perhaps the moment has come to bow our heads in unaccustomed humility.

For each beach in the book there are meticulous details given: not all of them the sort of details one would expect to find in a conventional holiday guide. However proud the local tourist authority might be of - for example - Whitsand Bay in Cornwall, it would be unlikely to advertise it as having "One outfall serving 1,500 people, discharging untreated sewage at low-water mark by the harbour" (it meets the EEC standard, though). Sewage is not a fixation, however: Dr Scott is also conventionally informative about sand quality, dangerous currents, access, parking, seaside cafes and wet

weather alternatives. Nor are her "author recommendations" - plaques marking the very best beaches - all reserved for remote, naturalists' haunts: Bridlington is as highly praised as shingly, wild Aldeburgh or various recherché dunes in Scotland and Wales.

But perhaps the most interesting parts of the book are the regional summaries at the head of each section. In concise essays, she sets out the appeal of each area and its special problems. She details the south-west's glorious sweep of cliffs and coves and its china-clay and tourist pollution; the shifting, marshy fascination of the south-east and the curse of sludge-dumping the Thames Estuary; the sandy glories of Yorkshire and Northumberland counterpointed by the environmental

misdeeds of local power stations, chemical works, and coal-mines.

There is something beguilingly honest about a book which can rhapsodize about the secluded coves of Gower in one sentence, and speak sternly about the steelworks of Port Talbot in the next; or mention Dounreay and the offshore oil industry before going into an enthusiastic aside about the "sea-lochs, towering mountains, and fantastic sunsets" of Scotland.

If I fail to mention the remaining region, the north-west, in this context it is because Dr Scott's comments are so unrelentingly damning. She finds only one beach worth recommending - at Freshfield, Formby - and only three beaches which

come up to the basic EEC hygiene standard, in the whole stretch of coast from the Welsh to the Scottish border.

There is a bracing and purposeful tone to the book. It does not indulge in sentimental hype like the publications of the English Tourist Board, but nor is it the usual dismal litany of the environmentalist who wishes the human race elsewhere than on his precious planet earth. Anne Scott's aim is to encourage sensible, responsible, but joyful use of the British beaches: to produce a nation that is once again appreciative of the unique glories of its own coast, and that will fight indignantly against the thoughtless and unnecessary spreading of filth.

"People and companies that pollute the sea and shore," she says firmly, "are criminals.

Don't let them get away with it. International agreements are being reached, often due to the pressure from people like you and me, and they must be effectively enforced."

Whether we skin around on windsurfers or merely stare at crabs and lugworm-casts, we the people on the beach, are the only vigilantes who have a chance of saving the sea-coast.

The only thing nobody can ever do is make the bathing any warmer: the weaker spirits, I fear, will continue to fly south or to opt for artificial pleasure-domes with Jacuzzi and wave machines instead of tides. But the least they could do is buy the book and support the cause.

The Good Beach Guide, by Anne Scott, is published on April 18 (Ebury Press £12.95)

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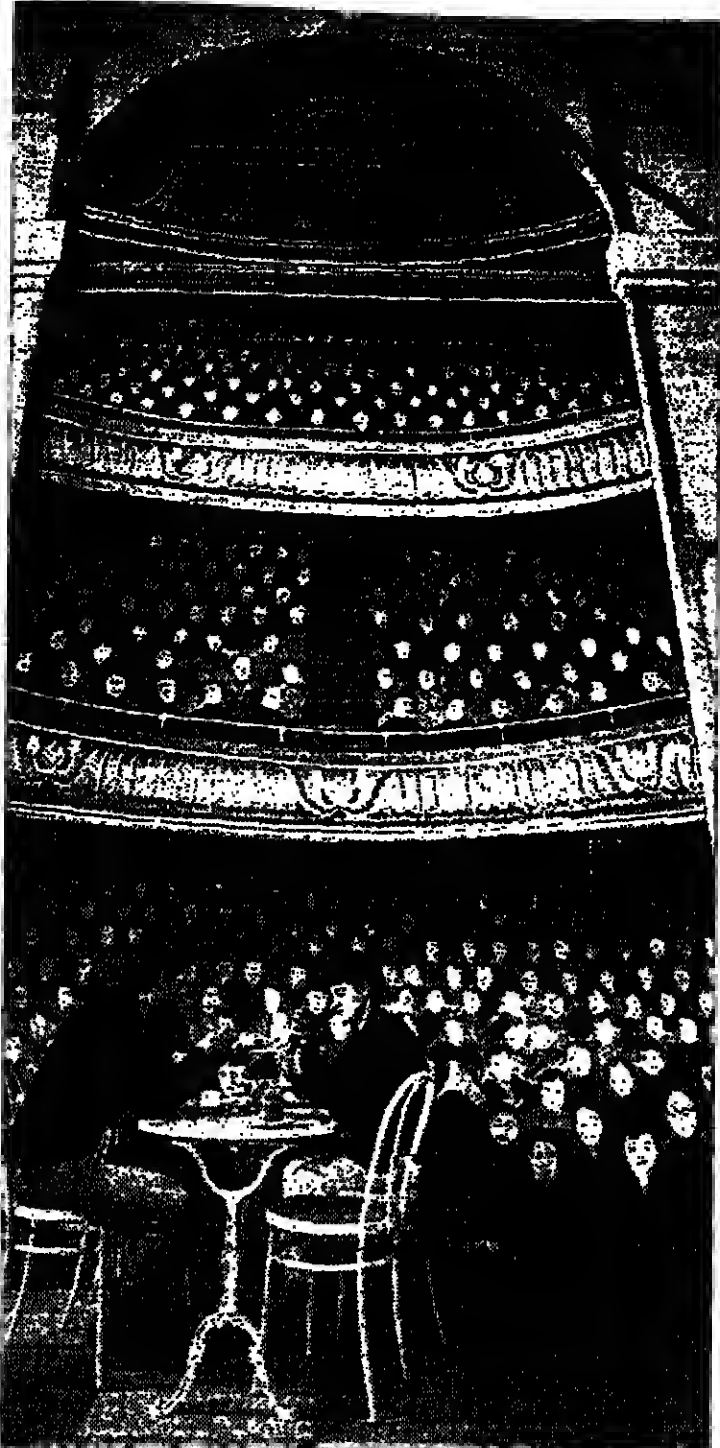
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How to make a Yen go further. Most Japanese are as appalled by the rising costs in their country as everyone else and all but the extraordinarily rich will feel as pinched for money as the English visitor who anxiously converts everything into pounds. And that, basically, is the first "don't" of travel in Japan: if you are constantly converting every price you will probably never leave your hotel room.

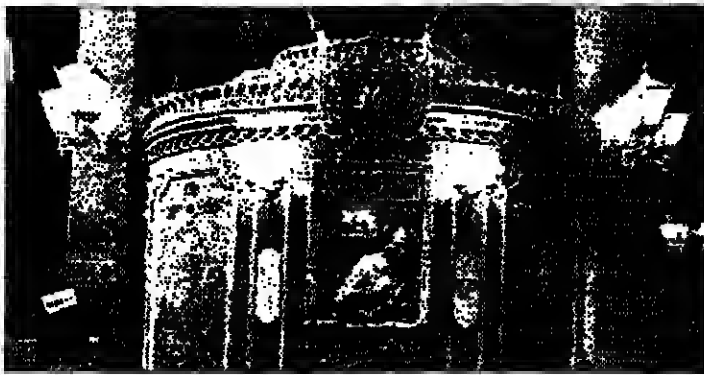
OUT AND ABOUT

With Garrick and Gielgud, this one will run and run



Interval drinks: a packed audience watches over a coffee cup drama

Nigel Andrew visits the Covent Garden Theatre Museum, overcomes his resistance, and decides to award it a round of applause



Box office: tickets for theatre present after a look at theatre past

As an inveterate hater of all things theatrical, I hardly expected to find myself visiting the Theatre Museum... It opened last year on April 23, Shakespeare's supposed birthday...

down gently sloping ramps, for this is state-of-the-art musculology. You walk first into a plush, thick-carpeted foyer with mirrors all down one wall... This is indeed the anteroom to a real theatre...

designed by Burne-Jones for Irving's King Arthur, a mirror covered with Beethoven Tree's make-up doodles... We are lucky to have this museum...



Smell of greasepaint: the typical clutter of an actor's dressing room



Novello nostalgia: play bills are among the two million exhibits

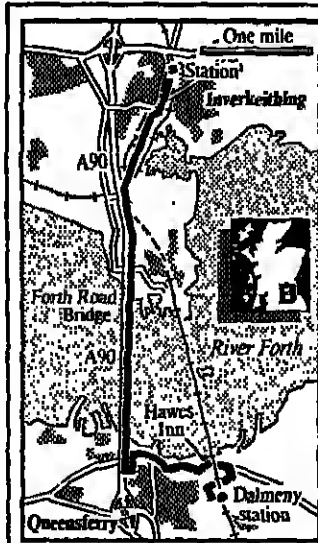
A weekend sale for the lifeboat

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various venues, Northumbria. Today, tomorrow. Most events free, small charge for several concerts and barn dance...



No fields, no mud today. No escape from the hustle of traffic either. Instead, a thrilling visit to several centuries of Scotland's history...

A bridge of sighs

his twin on the Lothian shore the cable-held burden of the Forth Road Bridge. The view has a cloth of kidnapped evocations...

the Queen is the sainted Margaret of Scotland, to wander at the man-made harmony from the water's edge: the straight lines of the 1880s to the right, the graceful curves of the 1960s to the left...

GARDENING

How to grow and mow a meadow

The subject of informal low-maintenance wild flower gardening always attracts a large postbag, mainly from people with gardens too large to manage comfortably...

The wild beauty of the graveyard can, says Francesca Greenoak, help in the creation of a meadow garden. These plants will all have flowered by the end of May or early June...

survive. The box can be taken off when cutting the long grass. Churchyard plots especially repaying attention are those cultivated flowers planted on graves...



WEEKEND TIPS: Work general fertilizer into herbaceous beds. Split and replant clumps of snowdrops and winter aconites to increase stock...

Advertisement for Emerald Fantastico, Agriframes Fruit Cages, Safeguard Your Fruit, Cowslips, and Wind Problems, featuring product images and prices.

Advertisement for Sadolin wood protection systems, featuring a photo of a man in a hat and text describing the benefits of the product for wood cladding and external woodwork.

THE TIMES COOK

Farewell to old Bolognese

Once upon a time if you wanted to eat good, authentic Italian food, you had to fly to Milan, Bologna or Palermo. Then it became possible to find quality Italian produce, dry goods as well as spectacular salamis, hams and cheeses. And so, armed with our oily, floury copies of Ada Boni and later Marcella Hazan, we taught ourselves to make creamy risotto and passable pasta. Now there are fresh pasta shops churning it out by the metre in every shape and colour. Much more exciting though, for those lucky enough to live near them, are the authentic Italian restaurants opening up. Recently we have eaten in London a very fine seafood risotto at Carraro's, and I remember a startlingly good dish at L'Incontro, a very, very hot grilled polenta served with a very cold cream of salt cod. All a far cry from the old spaghetti Bolognese that gave that delicious and, when properly prepared, reformed dish such a bad name. And much cheaper than flying off to Milan. Well, cheaper, anyway.

Now, when birthdays come around, we have the choice of eating in or out. For Italian food is our favourite. We eat this way at least three times a week and often more - a salad, some pasta, a fish or meat dish and some fruit. Sometimes it is just salad, pasta, cheese and fruit. For special occasions, there might be a pudding. Just such an occasion, a special birthday, comes up next week, and although it is National Eating Out Week, the recipes that follow are ones that I shall probably cook. As an alternative to the rich Tiramisu, I might serve peeled sliced oranges in orange juice because there are some marvellous Spanish navel oranges around at the moment.

If you cannot get good celery for the pasta sauce, then use something else, bacon, anchovies, halved olives, whatever appeals. I use celery because I have just bought, in Camden Town, the biggest head of celery I have ever seen, 3 1/2 pounds of it, fragrant, pungent, crisp. From Italy, of course. The other ingredients in the sauce, sun-dried tomatoes, are now much more available than they were a couple of years ago. You can buy them in good Italian food shops and other delicatessens. Cucumber, the herbalists with shops in many parts of the country, sell small jars of them in olive oil for £2.95, but they also import packets from California, good value at £1.95 for 3oz/85g. A little goes a very long way, as the flavour is so concentrated. You can bottle them in olive oil yourself, and as you use up the tomatoes, you can also use the richly flavoured oil in cooking or salad dressings. The tomatoes also make an excellent addition to soups and casseroles.

French waiters, despite the spoodle turns with the greenish-domes, are sound. And Waik Garb, an Egyptian, by an English notion of being friendly without being chummy, is a professional without being stiff. His wife Eva, who's German, once took me from the ruins of a place, and so on doing, hoist a star. About £60 for two, including Bordeaux from a list which is and too francophone.



Do not mourn the passing of tired spaghetti dishes, says Frances Bissell. Italian food has come of age in Britain - and it still works out a little cheaper than taking a flight to Milan

- 1 small onion
2 to 3 cloves garlic, or to taste
4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 crisp, firm celery stalks
1/8 pint/70mls dry white wine
salt and pepper
2oz/60g fresh goats cheese (optional)
14oz/400g pasta

Cut the tomatoes into narrow strips, and place in a bowl. Pour on boiling water to just immerse the tomato, and allow to stand for five to 10 minutes. Meanwhile, peel the onion and garlic and slice or chop very finely. Heat half the olive oil in a large frying pan and gently fry the onion and garlic until transparent and just turning golden brown, but without

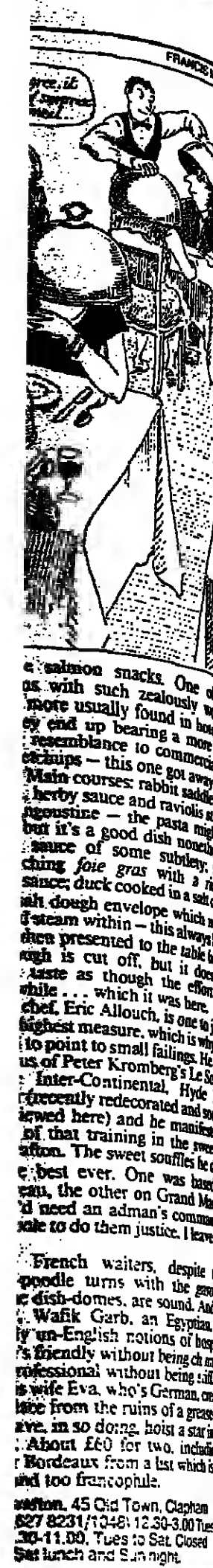
burning the garlic. Trim the celery stalks and "string" them before finely slicing. Add them to the frying pan together with the soaked tomatoes and liquid and cook briskly until all the liquid has been absorbed. Add the white wine and the rest of the olive oil and cook until the liquid is reduced by half. Season to taste. Crumble in the goats cheese just before serving. Meanwhile, cook the pasta, drain it, and stir it into the sauce, cooking the two together for a minute or two, which is why a large frying pan is necessary, and then pour carefully into a heated serving bowl.

The veal recipe is very easy to do and not too expensive. The cost of veal kidneys is somewhat offset by the fact that breast of veal is one of the cheaper cuts. Anyway, it is for a special occasion. I find it is much better to cook a larger joint than I need and then have plenty of leftovers for serving cold. The leftovers from this dish are too good for sandwiches. Instead, I include a recipe directly inspired by a traditional Italian "viello tonnato". Fresh salmon is used for the sauce rather than tinned tuna fish. Roast breast of veal with kidney and spinach. Serves 6 to 8.

Place the veal bones in a roasting tin, then put the roll on top. Place in a pre-heated oven, and roast at gas mark 2, 150°C, 300°F for three to three and a half hours hours, brushing with olive oil every 40 minutes. Remove the meat from the oven, and keep it warm while you prepare the gravy, using the cooking juices from the roasting tin.

- Cold roast veal with salmon and caper sauce Serves 6
1lb/455g cold roast veal in a piece
4oz/110g cold cooked salmon
1 small tin of anchovies
4 tablespoons mild olive oil
2 egg yolks
juice of 1/2 a lemon
freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon capers

Beat the egg yolks with the sugar until light and creamy and the sugar has dissolved completely. Add the mascarpone and vanilla, mixing in well. Whisk the egg whites until firm, and gently fold into the mascarpone mix. Using either one dish or individual dishes, dip the sponge fingers into the coffee and Marsala, mixed together, then arrange on the bottom of the dish or dishes, breaking the sponge fingers if necessary. Spoon on the mascarpone mixture, and lightly sprinkle with cocoa powder. Chill for at least an hour.



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DRINK

Too much of what they fancy

Patrick McGrath, of The Victoria Wine Company, says: "If you took all the wine off the shelves and stocked them full of Jersey, you could be in a Benedictine." Most wine merchants would not take this description of their fixtures and fittings as a compliment, but McGrath's South of the Bordeaux, and its London SW7 sister, Gare du Vin, are no ordinary wine shops: they form Victoria Wine's vanguard in their desperate attempt to get away from their cigarettes and beer-dispensing corner kiosk image. Certainly anyone wandering into South of the Bordeaux (123 King's Road, London SW3) would wonder what they had drifted into: dappled pastel walls, polished parquet floors, discreet shelving and rather more elegantly attired assistants than customers all take precedence over the wine bottles, it seems.

Eric Beaumont and Hill-Smith's Old Triangle Riesling are priced respectively at £14, £6.25 and £2.99 at Waitrose, compared to South of the Bordeaux's £15.75, £6.99 and £3.59. South of the Bordeaux opened on Beaujolais Nouveau day last year, of course, and despite its encouraging tasting corner complete with free samples, tasteful spittoon, grousing champagne-filled fridges and row of wine books beyond, has, I think, already met its Waterloo in the shape of Waitrose. All this South of the Bordeaux razzmatazz - including its onerous name - does not detract from the bottom line: the modern British wine drinker wants good wines and keen prices, not fancy labels and shopfittings. Thankfully Victoria Wine's other concept, the Gare du Vin at 23 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, and 160 High Street, Winchester, is much more practical. Wines are available for tasting here and the prices - like those at South of the Bordeaux - are not the cheapest in the high street. But at least the list features a reasonable range of the world's wines with its foundation in France. Similarly, inside the small and relaxed Gare du Vin, run by a sensible manager, poached from La Vignerone just down the road, the wines are more sensibly displayed. Gare du Vin is particularly proud of its New World list, so try their soundly-made '86 Leo Buring South Australian Chardonnay with its vegetable scent and firmer palate, good value at £3.99. I also enjoyed the '86 Orvieto Classico from Bigi, priced though, at £4.29. The best bargain boy is the 1980 Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon Oriahovitz (£2.79). Jane MacQuitty

Jersey will be offering a series of events from special sunset menus to simple wine tastings and demonstrations of flambe cooking. Jersey's Good Food Festival is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the island's reputation as a good food island. For further information write to: Jersey Tourism, 35 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3FB or telephone 01-493 5278. Enjoy the taste of Jersey

CUNE. Superior Rioja. "Deep garnet colour" "Full, balanced wine, tinged with oak" "Elegant, with long finish..." "Unmistakably CUNE" From CUNE, a range of very fine wines including the incomparable Imperial Reservas and Gran Reservas.

Wine Drinkers Call Us For Pre-Budget Prices. Wherever you are in the UK call Grant Farquhar now on 01-736 1515 for Majestic's free Wine List containing over 700 great value wines... And ask about our special introductory offer on home delivery. Majestic Wine Warehouses

Mr Energy ceases off CONCERT

ISO/Tilson Thomsen Barbican

One notes a little ruefully the current London Symphony Orchestra brochure splashes from The Times under the name of Michael Tilson Thomas. It does prompt some human dynamo, and this time between pumping and pulverizing Beethoven...

Earlier, too, he brought some skill in balancing his lightning textures in an absolutely unanimous manner, in conveying high-spirited, torial music with an intense zest to the weightier moments...

Nor, for different reasons, did George Bolet's of Liszt's First Concerto. One must admit for his uncompromisingly ever questing pianism...

Richard Morris

Leader leader JAZZ

Wayne Shorter International Manchester

As Wayne Shorter says, British jazz has a long and distinguished history, and it is a pity that it has not been able to produce a single name of the stature of Duke Ellington...

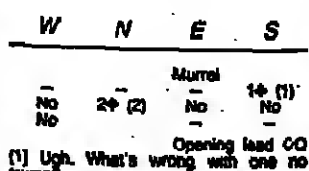
BRIDGE

The question is: who is to lead?

Some years ago there used to be endless arguments about whether it was better to lead the Ace of King from the Ace-King. Duplicate players generally preferred the Ace...

Today most players accept that there is a slight technical advantage in leading the Ace. But whichever you decide to lead, there are times when you should reverse the normal procedures.

Suppose you are on lead against three no trumps and are fortunate enough to hold this suit:



It was possible, though, that this time Tilson Thomas simply ran out of ideas. Kavel, for he had just superbly interpreted a 'Rhapsodie Espagnole'...

Another time some keen tournament players reverse their normal practice is when they intend to start with their suit, and then switch to a singleton. It is that if they follow their normal lead style and then switch, partner knows that it is not a singleton.

Even if you do lead the Ace at trick one, you should change to the King in the middle of the play. Obvious, you might think, but not to some. I am grateful to John Murrell, the vice-chairman of the St James's Bridge Club...

Jeremy Flint

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION Blood Libels, by Gieve Skolimov. An alternative, funny, political imaginative history. London racked by anti-Semitic pogroms...

NON-FICTION Joseph Banks, by Patrick O'Brian (Collins Harvill, £2.95). Life of the explorer, plant-hunter, scientist, enthusiastic Englishman...

The Crack, by Sally Belfrage (Griffin, £3.95). Reportage about a year in Belfast with the 'crack', or what's up. Prod?

The Nightmare of Reason, by Ernst Pavel (Collins Harvill, £5.95). Intellectual, literary, and private life of Kafka.

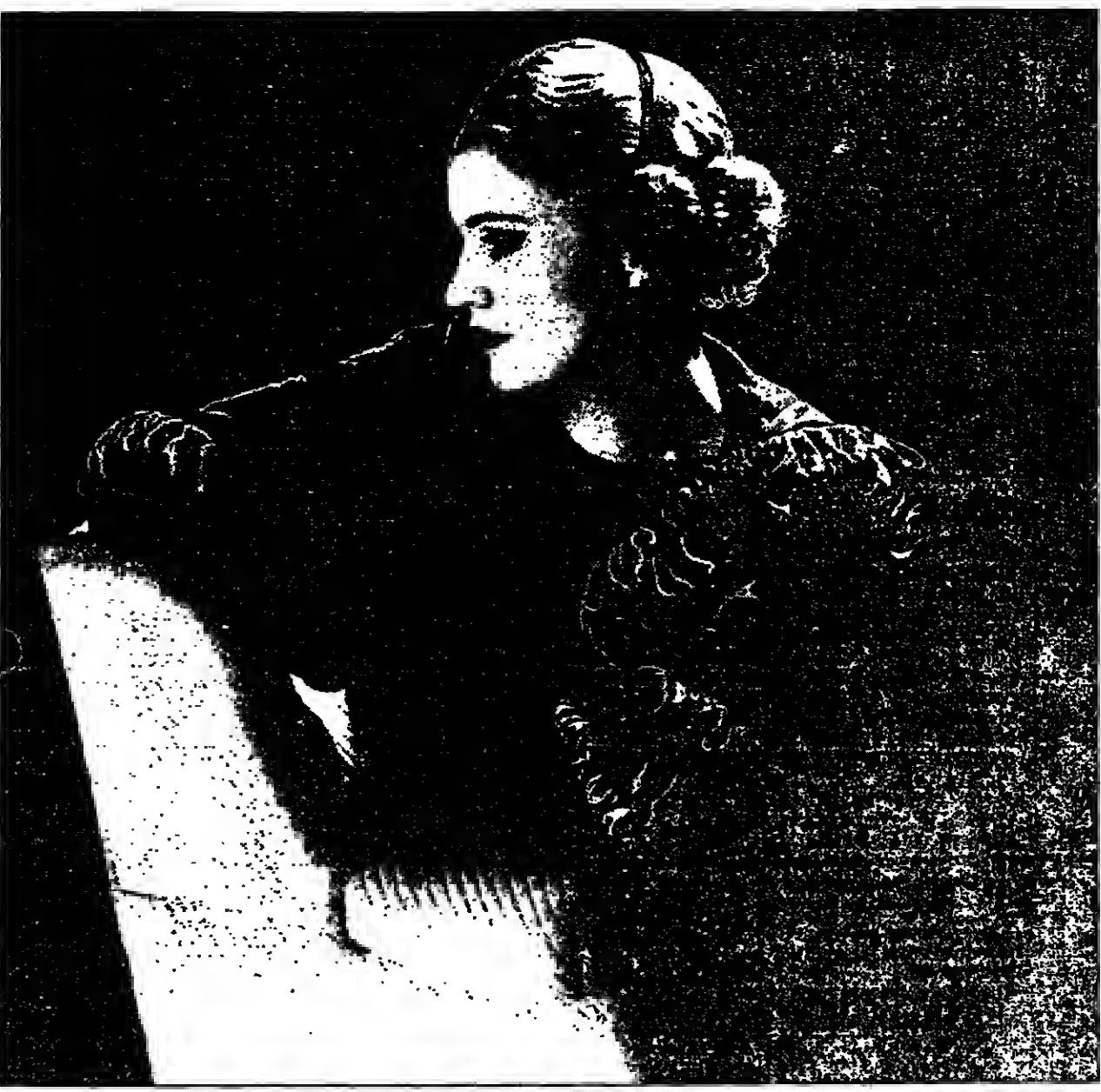
The first lady of cliché

The Ladies of Missalonghi, by Colleen McCullough (Arrow, £2.50)

It is quite some art to take every romantic cliché in the book - the ugly duckling, the fairy godmother, the handsome stranger, the defeat of evil by good - to put them all together in a happy-ever-after tale of rags-to-riches set in Australia...

It is a story of the triumph of Right, Missy Wright, a dowdy, brown-clad, painfully thin spinster, and a snubbed misfit among her full-figured, blonde, Hurlingford cousins. She lives with her widowed mother and crippled aunt in poverty...

Sarah Edworthy



A self portrait of the artist as a young woman: a study made in 1935 of the American photographer, fashion model and war correspondent Lee Miller, taken from the book The Lives of Lee Miller, by Antony Penrose (Thames and Hudson £14.95)

Europe, the black man's burden

The European Tribe, by Caryl Phillips (Faber, £2.95).

PAPERBACK

In a time of the breaking of nations, it is the writer who will expose the fallen monuments. It may be a dangerous undertaking, of course, for the monuments will not always applaud the writer's inspection...

Surprisingly, it is Norway which also provides him with his most disturbing statistics. In a book already wounded with such stigmata, he cites an opinion poll in the Norwegian daily newspaper Aftenposten in which 52 per cent wanted to see immigrants abandon their cultural traditions...

allowed even, to possess a culture in the first place.

with the important insights of theorists like Adorno, Benjamin, and Ortega Y Gasset, writers who discuss our reliance on cultural origin and legitimation. These, after all, are Phillips's very themes.

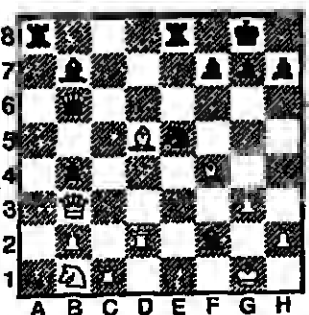
James Wood

CHESS

An English player first among equals

One of the most outstanding young English players is Nigel Short's fellow Northerner, David Norwood. David first showed his promise in 1985 by winning the Commonwealth Junior Championship...

This week's game is a win by Norwood from Lugano. The notes are based on those which he kindly sent me. White: Simic; Black: Norwood. Queen's Indian Defence, Lugano, March 1988.



Introducing an ill-conceived plan which has the effect of conceding the initiative to Black on the Queen's side. The correct strategy is to retreat the White Queen to c2 and steer for the central advance e4.

A further error which renders White's position critical. Although 15 axb4 axb4 16 Nxd4 Bxg6 grants Black excellent play this would, nevertheless,

Raymond Keene

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1535

ACROSS: 1 Australian "mate" (6); 4 Lead astray (6); 7 Person, place, thing word (4); 9 Five-line stanza (8); 11 Horse woman (12); 15 Spotted S American rhyme (6); 16 Frozen spike (6); 17 Mental disorders specialist (12); 23 Of many parts (8); 24 Maori war chant (4); 25 Annual (6); 26 Later (3,3).

DOWN: 2 Traffic bollard (4); 3 Bluntly (9); 5 Hurries (5); 6 Scottish terrier (5); 8 Era (5); 10 Bring on oneself (5); 11 Required (9); 12 Ship's echosounder (5); 13 At any time (4); 14 Barrel band (4); 18 Impudence (5); 19 Provide food (5); 20 Suggest (5); 21 Coordinate (3,2); 22 "Critic of Pure Reason" author.

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, April 14. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, April 16.

SOLUTION TO NO 1534: ACROSS: 1 Mock-up 4 Gambol 7 Nest 8 Unusually 9 Turn- 11 Scary 12 Encyclopaedia 13 Picnic 14 Down 21 Smut 22 Dearth 23 Picnic 24 11 Manatee 25 Chastity 3 Prude 4 Gist 5 Bombard 6 Lay-down 10 Locum 11 Swank 13 Candida 14 Aesthetic 15 Moped 17 Slump 18 Nomen 19 Pith

Heavy going as the dance stops

ROCK RECORDS

Ruben Blades: Nothing but the Truth (Elektra 960 754-1) Tracy Chapman: Tracy Chapman (Elektra EKT 44)

It is ironic that Ruben Blades, the Panamanian singer who has long been a major star in the Spanish-speaking Latin American market, should choose to abandon the hot-blooded, samba fusion which has been his trademark...

Nevertheless, Nothing but the Truth is Blades' first English language album and there is no mistaking a new intent to plug in to the contemporary rock idiom. His songwriting, including collaborations with hardened noteworthies like Sting, Elvis Costello and Lou Reed, produces a credible, cosmopolitan collection that ranges from the arena anthem 'The calm before the storm' to the late-night schmaltz of 'Hopes on hold'.

Liberal dollops of pros-

ARMSTRONG'S OTHER VOICE

JAZZ RECORDS

Louis Armstrong (Verve 833 283-4) Coleman Hawkins & Ben Webster (833 296-4) Modern Jazz Quartet (833 290-4)

Verve's medium-price "Walkman Jazz" series of digitally-remastered cassette compilations must be lightening the burden of many a commuter these days, and the Louis Armstrong tape - part of a new batch of 20 issues - should be a compulsory purchase for anyone whose knowledge of jazz trumpet listening extends no further back than, say, Miles Davis.

On six of the 13 selections the great man is accompanied (for, I think, the only time in his recording career) by a mainstream-modern rhythm section, and the result is not a little revelatory. Armstrong was, of course, the first great jazz soloist, the man who dragged the music out of the primordial sludge of collective improvisation in the 1920s. By 1957, when these sides were recorded, he was thought to have said everything he had to say; but, with the sensitive

ARMSTRONG'S OTHER VOICE

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Revelatory: Louis Armstrong accompanied by Oscar Peterson's piano, Ray Brown's bass, Herk Ellis's guitar and Louis Bellson's drums, he produces lengthy solos of great subtlety and enormous impact.

The tone is bright and beautiful, the articulation exact, the note-choice and phrasing perfectly matched and endlessly inventive. Bellson's drumming is occasionally a little self-consciously ornate, but on something like 'Sweet Lorraine' the elements coalesce into classic small-group jazz, irrespective of era and category.

On the remaining seven items Armstrong is accompa-

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orchestra playing semi-commercial arrangements, and here his marvellously andacious behind-the-beat singing is the main attraction. In 'I Only Have Eyes For You' and 'Little Girl Blue', Armstrong emerges as a wonderful ballad interpreter.

Coleman Hawkins and Ben Webster were two of the three greatest pre-modern tenor saxophonists. Their 1957 album of duets, Blue Saxophones, has always been held in great esteem; now five tracks from it reappear in their Walkman Jazz collection, along with a terrific blues ('De-Dar') from a later session.

The Modern Jazz Quartet's volume, mostly culled from 1957 concerts at the Donaueschingen Festival and the Chicago Opera House, is a useful summary of their virtues. Alongside such favourites as 'Coriège' and 'Three Windows', it includes a version of Charlie Parker's 'Now's the Time' that is a textbook example of how to dress the blues up in a dinner-jacket without losing its homespun essence.

Richard Williams

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Richard Williams

A Parsifal who is fit to live with

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Wagner: Parsifal. Bayreuth 1955/Levine. Philips 416 842-2 (four CDs) Wagner: Tristan und Isolde. Bayreuth 1966/Bhm. DG 419 889-2 (three CDs)

If the agony and the ecstasy of Parsifal were sublimated into a fine, lucid strength in Bernard Haitink's recent performances at Covent Garden, they are brought out frankly and fully by James Levine in his remarkable recording. Of course, the Bayreuth acoustic must have some of the credit for the matured sound, but the weight of the slow tempos (some of them very slow indeed) and of the sonorities is a measure of Levine's conviction.

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overdone and sentimental. He can also be unusually fast and furious, again in an entirely convincing way, and his very flexibility makes him a sensitive partner to Hans Sotin's experienced, feeling Gurnemanz, to Simon Estes's Amfortas, an athlete of effortlessly-contained suffering (he is in much better form here than at Covent Garden), and to Waltraud Meier's quite incomparable Kundry. There is also an excellent Second Knight from Matthias H'olle, Stockhausen's favoured bass.

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And yet there is no sense of exaggeration here, or of something done for effect. Levine has the Bernstein gift for getting away magnificently with things that, from anyone else, would sound absurdly

CLASSICAL RECORDS

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sounds in regrettably poor vocal shape: only occasional passages, like the ending of the middle act, show something like the gleaming strength of old. However, the orchestral performance, the sheer sound and the supreme Kundry make this a Parsifal to live with.

Paul Griffiths

CLASSICAL RECORDS

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Nor do they, indeed, in the swift, wild and dramatically telling Tristan that Karl Böhm conducted in 196h in the same place (though one might not think it the same place, so different is Böhm's lean muscularity from Levine's dulled radiance). It is good to have this classic recording, boasting Windgassen and Nilsson in the title roles, to set beside Kleiber and Bernstein.

Paul Griffiths

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Horror story

The Broadway opening of Corrie, the Royal Shakespeare's unloved horror musical has been put off again. First night at the Virginia Theatre on Broadway was originally to be April 28, but the date receded to May 1, then May 4. The latest postponement to May 12 takes director Terry Hands out of the race with his old associate, Trevor Nunn, for a Tony Award. Nunn's Chess opens a couple of blocks away later this month but Corrie is now so delayed that it misses the nominations deadline, May 5. With every hiccup, actress Barbara Cook must congratulate herself anew on quitting before the transfer from Stratford. Relations were apparently so strained that her first night present to Hands was a gift-wrapped hatchet.

The row over the National Audit Office report on the Victoria & Albert and the British Museum's shacking conservation record continues... but there is light on the horizon. Christopher Frayling, professor of cultural history at the Royal College of Art, has won the backing of the RCA, V&A and Imperial College to launch Britain's first Masters degree in conservation in October 1989. Students will study the conservation of wooden furniture, fabrics, ceramics and the materials of modern sculpture such as metal and plastic. Though the course should enhance the status of museum conservators who resent being classed as artisans, there's a problem: who wants the suffix M.A.(Con)?

Tiny talents

After painting for 75 years, 84-year-old Eileen Chandler gets her first one-woman show at Guy Morrison's gallery in Jermyn Street from Wednesday. Her beautiful water-colour landscapes will give no indication of her own talent for some of the most charming child portraits. Working from the late 1940s at her gallery on Sunset Boulevard, Mrs Chan-



Powell and Minelli

der painted the three-year-old Mia Farrow, the four-year-old Liza Minelli and, over here, the tiny Bamber Gascoigne. Expect to spot Robert Powell anxiously surveying the gallery walls for her just-completed painting of his eight and 10-year-olds.

Paper Mark

Children at the Wither's End festival on the South Bank at Easter were entranced by Mark Thorsson's demonstration of origami. But he should have been a familiar face to their cooing parents: by night he is one of the homeless who sleep rough beneath the railway arches. He was chosen by the organizer, Linda MacFadyen, after he presented her with a paper rabbit. Her office now a menagerie, she plans to employ him again. Sadly, she'll know where to find him.

Coming soon

Don't despair if you fail to catch Peter Brook's Mahabharata in Glasgow this month (I'm told there are a few seats left). Filming starts this September for a Channel 4 film of the nine-hour Sanskrit epic, condensed into three two-hour episodes for transmission in autumn 1989. Michael Kusow, C4's arts commissioner, who has spent six years on the coup, can hardly contain himself.

The fraternal welcome extended by Labour councils to the Moscow State Circus this summer has riled the Association of Circus Proprietors of Great Britain. Malcolm Clay, of the association, says York, Birmingham, Manchester and Norwich all operate a ban on British circuses but are providing venues for Moscow State. Barbara Simpson, amenities chairman of Labour-controlled Norwich, says there is a difference between lions jumping through hoops and the ancient military manoeuvres of the Cossack horses. 'After all, they have appeared on Blue Peter and everything.'

Good heavens

In a splendid gesture to multiculturalism, Steven Pimlott, director of the York Mystery Plays this June, has picked a Hindu to play Christ. As it happens, Victor Banerjee, Dr Aziz in David Lean's Passage to India, was educated by Irish missionary brothers, so at least he knows the story. Meanwhile the part of God in this iconoclastic variation on the Mystery tradition has been given to a 12-year-old boy.

Andrew Billen

THE WEEK AHEAD



ROCK
ROCHDALE ZULU: Johnny Clegg and his multi-racial South African group Savuka start the English leg of s European tour on Thursday.



BOOKS
BROOK ON BROOK: Peter Brook is the greatest theatre director whom we have not got.



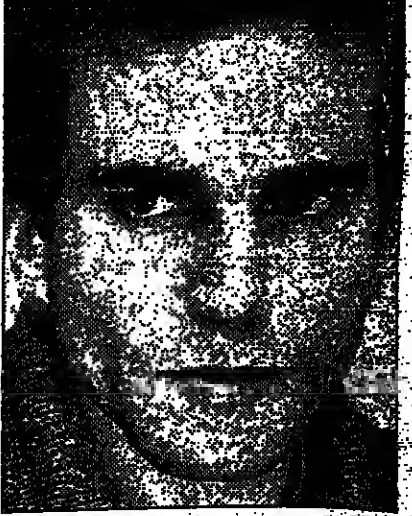
OPERA
EDITA'S REVIVAL: Edita Gruberova, the Czech coloratura soprano, sings her first Lucia at Covent Garden on Friday.



CONCERT
LOTS OF PLEASURE: Felicity Lott sings in the opening concert of the second British Library Stefan Zweig Series at Wigmore Hall tomorrow.



DANCE
BRADFORD BALLET: Patrick Armand dances Siegfried at the first performance of Natalia Makarova's new production of Swan Lake for London Festival Ballet.



FILM
IN THE LIONS' DEN: Daniel Day-Lewis takes a leap into international stardom with his part in The Unbearable Lightness of Being.

THEATRE LONDON

EASY VIRTUE: Jane How, Ronnie Stevens, Zena Walker, John Michie, directed by Tim Luscombe in Noel Coward's Twenties play about hypocrisy.

OUT OF TOWN

BIRMINGHAM: My Fair Lady: New production of the Lerner and Loewe musical.

RADIO

To mark the 80th birthday of the conductor Herbert von Karajan (above), Radio 3 is reviving a series of recordings he made in the 1950s with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

WALKS

LONDON'S HISTORIC DOCKLANDS & THAMES: meet today, Tower Hill tube, 11.15am, £3 (also next Sat).

JAZZ

ART BLAKEY: The father figure of modern drummers, now pushing 70, brings his Jazz Messengers to town for a fortnight residency.

GALLERIES

ROSIE LEVENTON: An enormous installation called Wake incorporating a leaden boat and a river of ash.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Two more performances tonight and Tuesday of Ashton's lyrical masterpiece Symphonic Variations.

TELEVISION

REVOLUTION REVISITED: First of four-part with Danny Cohn-Bendit on upheavals of late 1960s.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: The New Peter Hall production of Strauss's Salome. Mon and Thurs, 8pm.

BOOKINGS

BEAUMARIS FESTIVAL: Hungarian theme includes visits by Hungarian cellist Czaba Onczay.

LAST CHANCE

A MAN OF OUR TIME: Photographic exhibition of life and works of Michael Tippett.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page
SATURDAY
BBC1 WALES: 5.15pm-5.30pm Sports

FILMS

BELLMAN AND TRUE (15): Entertaining British thriller with psychological overtones, featuring Bernard Hill as the failed hero forced to use his computer skills in a bank robbery.

The horrific face of defeat

A new exhibition of prints and drawings demonstrates that there were no half measures in the art of the short-lived Weimar Republic.



Hitler's star turns: Grosz's "Der absolute Monarchist", 1922 (left) and Dix's "Louise and Vohse", 1923



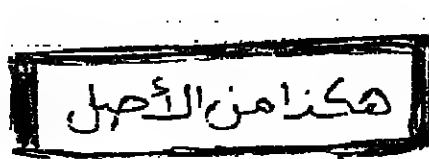
grappled with immediate production of social instability, recession and the humiliation of defeat.

SUNDAY

BBC1 WALES: 6.15pm-6.25pm Weather

WORLD SERVICE

World Service programmes including BBC World Service, Radio 1, and Radio 2.



Hijack drama shifts to Beirut

Anguished pleas of a desperate pilot

The following conversation was monitored yesterday between the Beirut airport control tower and the hijacked Kuwaiti jet as it circled above the city:

Pilot: "Control tower, control tower... can you hear me, can you hear me, Kuwaiti, Kuwaiti. They are forcing me to land. I am the hijacked plane. They are forcing me to land. We are requested to land. If we don't they will shoot us. I have a gun pointed at me. Please help me. I don't have fuel. Please get me permission to land."

Control tower: "It is not our problem. You are wasting your time. The fuel in Lebanon is polluted. Go away."

Hijacker: "I demand to land immediately or I will cut out your tongue."

Pilot: "They are forcing me to land. We are requested to land. If we don't, they will shoot us."

Syrian military officer (to control tower): "Tell them on my way under any circumstances should they try to land."

Hijacker: "I am the hijacker talking. We don't want a confrontation with you. We have members of the Kuwaiti royal family."

Control tower: "Don't get angry... I cannot allow you to land in Beirut."

Hijacker: "I will circle again."

Pilot: "I have a gun pointed at me. Please help me. I don't have fuel. Please get me permission to land. One of the Kuwaiti royal family members has a heart problem and wants to talk to the interior minister."

First passenger: "I am Anwar Khaled al-Sabah, one of the passengers of the plane. Please allow us to land at the airport."

Second passenger: "My name is Khaled al-Ghabban, one of the passengers of the plane. The plane has no fuel. We have to land. The passengers are scared. I am speaking on behalf of all the passengers."

Control tower: "You are wasting your time here. If you try to land by force, the plane will be fired on."

Pilot: "A gun is pointed to my head. I request landing permission to land to refuel."

Control tower: "We have been for 14 years under gunfire."

Hijacker: "I shall punish control tower officials if they don't allow us to land. The passengers are all in panic now and many of them are vomiting. Among the passengers is a member of the Kuwaiti ruling family who has a heart condition."

Control tower: "With all due respect to all families, permit me to say that all the Lebanese suffer heart ailments (from the war). Do not try to talk to me sentimentally."

Hijacker: "We will have to land there by force."

Pilot: "I beg you, I kiss your hand, I beg you again please let me land. I swear I understand all your reasons but I beg you because I have human lives at risk here. I beg you to allow me to land. Please prepare some ambulances. We must land. I'm going to make a forced landing. Prepare the ambulances. Please inform the ministers of justice, interior and public works that we are compelled to land at Beirut airport. There is no other option for us."

Control tower: "There is no chance of landing. You will have to shoulder the responsibility of your action."

Pilot: "If you fail to clear the runways within a few minutes, we will land in the sea."

Hijacker: "We hold you, the interior minister, the public works minister and the justice minister, total responsibility for the lives of the passengers."

Control tower: "You are responsible for the passengers because you hijacked them."

Hijacker: "We will crash-land and whatever happens will happen you will bear the responsibility."

Pilot: "Within minutes if the airport is not open, we will crash."

Horse power aids tourist drive



Duke, the plodding workhorse, pulling a barge packed with trippers along the Grand Western Canal at Tiverton in Devon yesterday. Two horse-drawn barges will make daily two-hour cruises during the summer and are already proving popular.

Afghan peace deal is ready for signing

Continued from page 1

The announcement followed statements on Thursday by the Soviet, Afghan and Pakistani leaders that obstacles to the accord had been removed. Negotiations had bogged down recently over a superpower dispute over the supply of military aid to the rebels, but that appeared to have been resolved.

Moscow sent troops to Afghanistan in December 1979 to bolster a Marxist government, but Soviet involvement became costly economically and diplomatically. Since Mr Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in March 1985, he has displayed increasing eagerness to staunch what he called a "bleeding wound".

The Cordovez announcement left unclear whether the Soviet Union and the United States would continue to supply military aid to their allies, but he said he was sure all sides would show restraint.

The agreement's non-interference provisions had originally been understood to ban arms supplies at least to the rebels, if not to the Afghan Government. But Washington refused to cut its military aid to the guerrillas unless Moscow, in symmetry, also stopped supplying Kabul.

A separate formal statement by Senior Cordovez appeared to meet Pakistan's request for agreement in principle to form a new Afghan Government.

"It has been consistently recognized that the objective of a comprehensive settlement implies the broadest support and immediate participation of all segments of the Afghan people and that this can best be ensured by a broad-based Afghan Government."

Only Afghans could decide their future government, he added.

SANTA BARBARA: The White House expressed delight at the peace agreement and said the chances were good that Washington would join Moscow in backing it. Mr Howard Baker, said the Administration would withhold a final judgement until it had received formal notification of Moscow's plan to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Moscow: The Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, confirmed that Soviet troops would begin leaving Afghanistan on May 15, but claimed the pullout was not a present to President Reagan (on the eve of the Moscow summit (AP reports). Mr Reagan is to visit Moscow from May 29 to June 2 for his fourth summit.

At least two of the gunmen are believed to be Shia Muslims from Beirut. Haunting images, page 5

Tears of relief as Britons recount their terror ordeal

Continued from page 1

would make her view life in a different way. "I think I will value what is important and stop worrying about trivial things."

Mr Carew-Jones said that when the aircraft landed on one knee where they were. "Frankly, I was very worried about the plane being stormed by the SAS. I was trying to work out where to go if they came through a door, should I dive under the seat or what would be best? When I realised we were in Iran I felt more relieved. It was less likely that they would start shooting."

Asked if people should negotiate with terrorists he said: "I am a bit biased. I don't think you can give in to the prospects of these two terrorists emerging free after doing this thing and going round the world perhaps doing it again."

All the same I was hoping for some kind of compromise."

Mr Mark Appleby, aged 23, from Bristol travelling with his sister, Nicola, aged 23, after a holiday in Bangkok said that when the hijack started he first thought that a drunk had attacked one of the stewards.

"They were struggling directly where I was sitting. Then I saw the man had a gun and that it was pointing at my stomach. They fell on top of me and the gun then fell against Nicola. The man was overpowered but then some more terrorists came dashing down the plane and took over. They said: 'Stop. If you move we will kill you'. We got pretty anxious then."

The terrorists then moved all the passengers around the aircraft. Mr Appleby said: "I met one man, a Kuwaiti who complained to me that this was the second flight he had

had on Kuwaiti airlines and the second time he had been hijacked. He's still up there."

Miss Elaine McIntosh, aged 20, an arts student from the Isle of Wight, embraced her father, John, and said: "I am going to go and lie down in a dark room and close my eyes. I am very tired. This has put me off travelling for a long while, but I feel great to be home."

Her boyfriend, Mr Scott Stiffwell, aged 23, commercial photographer from the Isle of Wight, added: "I would just like to say that I hope the other passengers come out of this as well as we have. I really know that they are going through."

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, welcomed the freed hostages at Heathrow. She said there was great relief that "the Brits were back" but she was very concerned about the other 55 passengers.

Powerful sword hanging over Kuwait

From Robert Fisk Kuwait

The gunmen on board the hijacked Kuwaiti jet are holding a more important group of passengers than was at first revealed. It now turns out that not only are three members of the ruling Kuwaiti al-Sabah family on the aircraft, but the hijackers are also holding men from three of the country's leading and wealthiest merchant families.

al-Badr, Qabandi and Mutein families - among the Sunni Muslim commercial backbone of Kuwait - are known to be among the captives.

Furthermore, Fadel Khaled al-Sabah, who is from the Emir's own large family, turns out to be the brother of the fourth most important officer in the Kuwaiti Army.

The hijackers are thus holding an immensely powerful sword over Kuwait's rulers; their every action since taking

over the jet on Tuesday suggests that Kuwait is the sole target of their animosity.

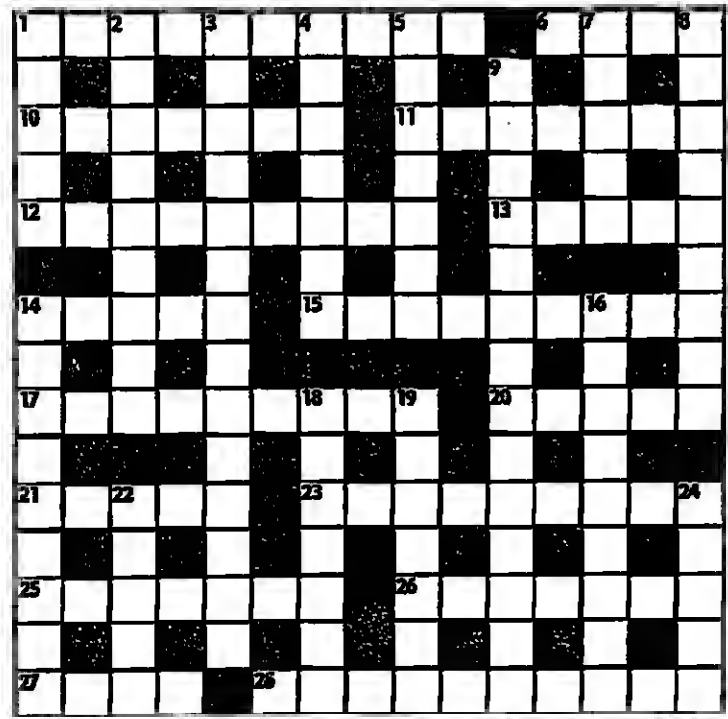
Indeed, British officials in the Middle East were stunned at the way in which the 22 British captives were released so early in the drama.

At one point yesterday the Kuwaiti security services feared the Boeing 747 airliner to Kuwait, perhaps threatening even to crash the jet on to the Emir's palace.

It is now clear that the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) Shia Muslim movement in Lebanon - and, in particular, the Islamic Jihad group which holds at least two American hostages and possibly Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, as well - played a leading role in the affair.

At least two of the gunmen are believed to be Shia Muslims from Beirut.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,639



- ACROSS
1 Figure of a child has moved me to show up (3,2,5).
6 Bath the setting for this opera? (4).
10 Characteristic noise heard from car that's exchanged (5-2).
11 Some hundred Germans aboard this boat (7).
12 Not straight - future too unsettled (3,2,4).
13 Get out of bed about noon and wash (5).
14 Transport firm has a lot of pain (5).
15 Execute Duke - His Grace has misbehaved (9).
17 Appropriate animals to see how the land lies (4,5).
20 You can carve with this provided the joint's almost round (5).
21 Called me to and relaxed (5).
22 Profit from backing book about light (9).
23 Broadcast from Russia about retrogressive university (7).
24 Difficult week in a hospital room (7).
27 By the sound of it, is familiar with the organ (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,633
O O A I O O H O W O W M
E I H O I U E
O V E R D O N E I N T E R
T C R E G I N T H O
A E G O R I O L O
E P L A T T A R Y E O I
O R A T O U P P R A M
L A C R O N O U S
B A I L E Y P A R T I C L E
I F L O R O U O H O P
A C E T O N E S
M T A C E T O N E S

WEATHER

Northern Scotland will start dry with some bright or sunny spells, although it will soon become cloudy with rain and snow showers. Winds will be strong. The rest of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England, apart from the extreme south-west, will have a fine day with sunny periods. South-west England will be cloudy and there may be a little light rain. Outlook: Mainly dry with sunny intervals, although northern Scotland may be showery.

ABROAD

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, and max. Includes locations like Alrocco, Alrocco, Alrocco, etc.

AROUND BRITAIN

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, and max. Includes locations like Scarborough, Scarborough, Scarborough, etc.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct? By Philip Howard

- COMSTOCKERY
a. Mobile ship's chandler's
b. Bloody-mindedness
c. Bowdlerization
SMALLUM
a. A minor chimney
b. A spotted teardrop
c. In small pieces
VACCIMULIGENCE
a. Scamlike frolicsation
b. Milking
c. Cow parsley
GOFER
a. A subordinate
b. A rabbit at golf
c. A prairie rat

STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for market, price, and change. Includes New York, Dow Jones, etc.

MAIN PRICE CHANG

Table with columns for item, price, and change. Includes Gold, Silver, etc.

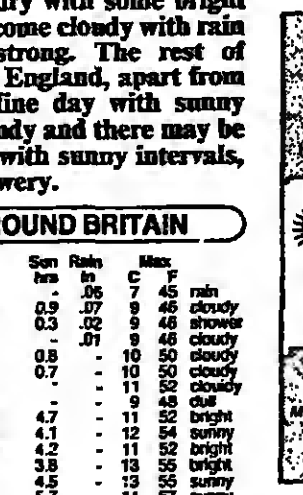
INTEREST RATES

Table with columns for rate, bank, and price. Includes Bank of England, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns for currency, bank, and price. Includes Australian \$, etc.

AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 5.18 pm to 5.45 am
Edinburgh 5.30 pm to 5.57 am
Manchester 5.37 pm to 6.09 am

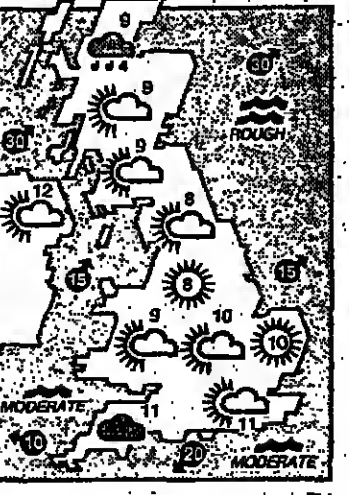
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with columns for location, highest, and lowest. Includes Belfast, Birmingham, etc.

NOON TODAY

Table with columns for location, sun, and moon. Includes London, Edinburgh, etc.

PM



MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 60%. Wind: 10 mph. Rain: 2.4 mm. Snow: 0.0 mm. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.2 hr.

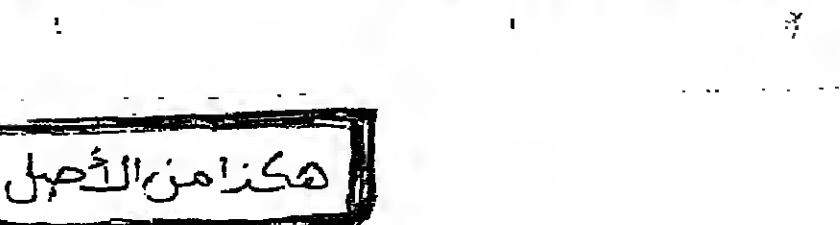
YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, and moon. Includes Belfast, Birmingham, etc.

THE POUND

Table with columns for bank, buy, and sell. Includes Bank of England, etc.

Vertical sidebar containing various market data, stock prices, and financial information. Includes sections for 'PART 2 SATURDAY AP', 'STOCK MARKETS', 'MAIN PRICE CHANG', 'INTEREST RATES', 'CURRENCIES', and 'THE POUND'.



Afghan peace deal is ready for signing

Continued from page 1

The announcement followed statements on Thursday by the Soviet, Afghan and Pakistani leaders that they had agreed to the accord and that negotiations had bogged down recently over a superpower dispute over the supply of military aid to the allies, but that agreement had been resolved.

Moscow sent troops to Afghanistan in December 1979 to bolster a Marxist government, but Soviet involvement became economically and diplomatically costly. Since Mr Gorbachev came to power in March 1985, he has displayed increasing eagerness to "bleed" the wound.

The Cordovez announcement left unclear whether the Soviet Union and the United States would continue to supply military aid to their allies but he said he was sure the sides would show restraint.

The agreement's non-interference provisions had previously been understood to mean that arms supplies at least to the rebels, if not to the Afghan Government, but Washington refused to cut its military aid to the guerrillas unless the Soviet Union, in symmetry, stopped supplying Kabul.

A separate formal agreement by Senior Cordovez says to meet Pakistani's request, agreement in principle to a new Afghan Government.

"It has been considered that a comprehensive settlement implies the broader scope and immediate participation of all segments of the Afghan people and that this can be ensured by a broad-based Afghan Government."

Only Afghans could decide their future government, he added.

● **SANTA BARBARA:** White House expressed a light at the peace agreement and said the chances were good that Washington and Moscow would begin leaving Afghanistan on May 15, but the pullout was not "per se" to President Reagan's visit to Moscow on May 20. (AP reports, Mr Reagan's visit to Moscow from May 20 June 2 for his fourth year.

Haunting images, p. 7

Executive Editor David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT-30 Share 1413.4 (+14.0)
FT-SE 100 1779.7 (+18.7)

Bargains 31521 (26088)
USM (Datastream) 145.26 (+0.13)

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8765 (+0.0100)
W German mark 3.1384 (+0.0038)

Trade-weighted 78.3 (+0.2)

Staley set to fight Tate bid

By Cliff Feltham

Tate & Lyle, the sugar producer, faced a battle last night after launching a hostile \$1.3 billion (£709 million) bid for Staley Continental, the US corn refiner.

Staley's board said it was too soon to comment, but it is certain to fight the offer, having already set up a "poison pill" plan which could cost the successful bidder more than \$75 million in compensation to top executives and management.

Mr Neil Shaw, the chairman of Tate & Lyle, is to challenge the scheme in the US courts.

Tate is offering \$32 a share for Staley, in which it has a stake of just under 5 per cent, and is asking the London market to finance part of the cost through a £208 million convertible rights issue. The announcement left Tate shares down 8p, at 741p.

Background, page 27

BBK plunges

Shares in Brown Boveri Kent (Holdings), plummeted by 20 per cent to 85p, yesterday when the company reported 1987 pretax profits up to 40 per cent below market forecasts at £6.3 million compared with £9.6 million in 1986.

A final dividend of 1.5p was declared, making a total of 3p for the year. This is lower than the 1986 payment of 3.5p.

Times, page 27

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2066.64 (+4.47)
Dow Jones	26748.89 (-20.39)
Nikkei Average	2619.87 (-3.21)
Hang Seng	249.8 (-0.8)
Sydney: AO	1425.1 (-12.1)
Frankfurt	1396.2 (-3.8)
General	4732.7 (-20.0)
Paris: CAC	287.4 (-2.1)
Zurich: SCA Gen	443.9 (-0.5)
FT-30 Share	1413.4 (+14.0)
FT-SE 100	1779.7 (+18.7)
FT Gold Mines	221.4 (+0.7)
FT Govt Bonds	90.01 (+0.21)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RUSSE:	271p (+13)
Lloyds	931p (+13)
Net West	542p (+10)
Standard Chart	467p (+14)
Bass & Newcastle	285p (+13)
Church	440p (+10)
General Accident	925p (+19)
GRE	923p (+19)
Midland Bank	978p (+7)
London & Man	281p (+12)
Pearl	441p (+14)
Prudential	865p (+16)
A Gledberg	194p (+11)
PNS	175p (+7)
Allied Lyons	391p (+8)
Guinness	385p (+8)
Keworth Hanson	368p (+8)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base:	8%
3-month interbank:	8.0-8.5%
3-month eligible bills:	7.7-7.9%
Savings rate:	10%
US Prime Rate:	8 1/2%
Federal Funds:	6 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills:	6.02-6.00%
30-year bonds:	10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.8765	£: \$1.8760
£: DM3.1384	£: DM1.6727
£: Sfr2.5961	£: Sfr1.7525
£: FF110.8435	£: FF110.8435
£: Yen236.52	£: Yen125.57
£: Index: 78.3	£: Index: 53.1
ECU: 20.66285	SDR: 50.73808

GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$448.50 pm \$448.40
Close:	\$450.25-450.75 (\$239.75-240.25)
New York:	Comex \$450.50-451.00*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) pm:	\$15.60/bbl (\$15.62)
* Denotes latest trading price	

Rawhide	26	Commodities	28
Stock Market	26	Foreign Exch	28
Traded Open	26	Money Markets	28
Wall Street	26	Unit Truss	28
Comex	27	USM Prices	28
Times	27	Share Prices	28

Cazenove partner on Guinness charges is bailed for £500,000

SE considers Mayhew case

By Lawrence Lever

The Stock Exchange is considering whether to apply any trading restrictions to Mr David Mayhew, the Cazenove partner, in the light of the three charges he is facing in the Guinness affair.

His position is already being examined by a number of Exchange officials and members of the Stock Exchange Council, and informal discussions have taken place within the Exchange.

Cazenove has already provided the Exchange with an internal report into its activities during the Guinness bid for Distillers. The Exchange did not consider it necessary to take any action in relation to Mr Mayhew as a result of that report.

In March last year the Stock Exchange Council imposed severe restrictions on the trading activities of Mr Anthony Parnes, the former Alexander Laing & Cruickshank stockbroker, as a result of his role in the Guinness affair.

Mr Parnes was informed by the Exchange that he was required to seek its consent before undertaking any business in securities for his own account or for that of a close relative.

He was also required to notify the secretary to the Stock Exchange Council of any business he introduced to any Stock Exchange member firm on behalf of a client.

According to Mr Parnes' legal advisers these restrictions were tantamount to suspending him. They were imposed several months before Mr Parnes was arrested and charged.

Council members and officials are considering the differences between Mr Parnes' case and that of Mr Mayhew. One factor considered relevant is that Alexander Laing & Cruickshank severed its link with Mr Parnes, who was a half-commission man at the firm, shortly after his involvement in Guinness became known.

In contrast, Cazenove has stood by Mr Mayhew from the outset, and on Thursday said he would continue as a partner in the firm.

Another factor under consideration is that Mr Mayhew's role in the Guinness affair was completely different from that of Mr Parnes. Mr Parnes was involved in buying Guinness shares for supporters of the company's bid for Distillers who were subsequently paid fees for their support. One of them, Mr Gerald Ronson, repaid the £5.8 million he received from Guinness.

Mr Parnes himself received £2.8 million as a result of his role in Guinness. Mr Mayhew did not receive any payment personally from Guinness.

It is likely that Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Exchange's chairman, will be closely involved in any decision on Mr Mayhew. Any decision must have the approval of the full Council.

Meanwhile, Mr Mayhew appeared at Bow Street magistrates court yesterday morning, and was remanded on bail on the strength of two sureties of £250,000 each. These were provided by Mr John Kemp-Welch, one of two joint senior partners of Cazenove, and Sir Michael Colman, chairman of Reckitt & Colman, the food and household products group.

Under his bail conditions Mr Mayhew must surrender his passport to the police. He must notify police of his address. He must give 24 hours' notice of any travel itinerary and plans to police if he requires his passport for foreign travel, and must collect his passport personally from the police, returning it within 24 hours of his return to the country. Mr Mayhew's next appearance before the magistrates will be on July 11.

The other six defendants in the Guinness affair will appear in court next Tuesday when they are expected to be remanded on bail, to reappear on July 11.

Moreover, some of the seven defendants who have already been charged and charged by Fraud Squad officers investigating the Guinness affair.

Seven already face charges. However, there are indications that more high-profile arrests are being considered by the Serious Fraud Office, which now has control of the criminal investigation into Guinness.

All maintain that they are innocent of all the charges brought against them.



Leaving court: David Mayhew was the centre of media attention after his appearance before magistrates yesterday

More arrests and charges expected

More people are expected to be arrested and charged by Fraud Squad officers investigating the Guinness affair.

Seven already face charges. However, there are indications that more high-profile arrests are being considered by the Serious Fraud Office, which now has control of the criminal investigation into Guinness.

All maintain that they are innocent of all the charges brought against them.

Further base rate cuts possible after sterling's cool reaction

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Further reductions in base rates are possible in the next few weeks, after the muted response of sterling to yesterday's surprise half-point cut.

The Bank of England led the clearing banks into a base rate reduction from 8 1/2 to 8 per cent, after steady but not intense upward pressure on sterling.

The move, which took base rates to their lowest level since May 1978, came as the pound edged back above DM3.14, apparently unaffected by Thursday's co-ordinated sterling selling by the Bundesbank and the Bank of England.

Treasury officials said the interest rate weapon would be used again if necessary, and did not rule out further base rate cuts if the pound continued to rise.

But the order to cut base rates to 8 per cent appears to have been reluctantly carried out by the Bank of England, which is concerned about inflationary pressures in the economy.

The move, apart from fulfilling the tactical requirement of taking the markets by surprise, also appears to have been aimed at reaffirming the Chancellor's commitment to exchange rate stability.

But officials rejected market suggestions that the authorities had set a DM3.14-3.15 ceiling for the pound. Policy on the pound is intended to be flexible within a broad strategy of stability.

The reduction also appears to have been with half an eye on next Wednesday's Group of Seven meeting in Washington, although officials said the move was not co-ordinated with this week's rise in US money market rates and a slackening of market rates in West Germany.

The pound, after initially dropping to below DM3.13 on the rate cut, ended the day stronger. It closed at DM3.1384 in London, a third of a penny up on the day. The pound gained a cent to \$1.8765 and the sterling index finished at 78.3, 0.2 of a point up on the previous close.

"I could envisage interest rates spiking down even further, with a halcyon or even one point off," said Mr Bill Martin, an economist at Phillips & Drew.

"The tolerance of the authorities to a higher level of sterling is clearly very limited," said Mr John Sheppard, an economist at Warburg Securities.

Although the reduction in base rates helped equities, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 18.7 points up at 1,779.7, the reaction at the long end of the gilt market was muted.

Mr Tim Congdon, an economist at Shearson Lehman Securities, who has been predicting sharply higher base rates, said the reaction of the gilt market was entirely justified.

But he conceded: "It isn't inconceivable that the pound could go to absurd levels forcing further interest rate cuts. Exchange rates do some crazy things."

The cut in base rates comes at a time when average earnings are growing strongly, with some analysts forecasting that official figures to be published next Friday will show 8 1/2 per cent average earnings growth in February, up from 8 1/2 per cent.

The Government's targeted money measure, M0, is expected to show a 12-month rise of 6 per cent or more in March, above the 1-to-5 per cent target range for 1988-89.

Kenneth Fleet, page 27

Baker endorses Fed policy

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr James Baker, the United States Treasury Secretary, yesterday endorsed the monetary policy of the Federal Reserve Board, which has led to an increase in both short-term and long-term interest rates over the past week.

Mr Baker's remark — that the apparent firming of money policy was "satisfactory" — was regarded as a strong signal that the Reagan Administration was willing to take a more active role in stabilizing the dollar around current levels.

There were unconfirmed reports yesterday that the Group of Seven nations had reached an agreement on exchange rate stabilization which would be announced at a meeting in Washington next week.

Earlier this year, the Fed was criticized by leading Reagan Administration officials, who blamed the central bank for maintaining high interest rates that were, it said, slowing US growth.

This occurred before the Fed's easing of monetary policy in late January, to spur growth.

The Treasury's acceptance of the apparent reversal of that policy was seen as a strong indication that the Reagan Administration was in agreement with the Fed that the dollar had fallen far enough.

High-level Federal Reserve officials have indicated that they feared that the stronger than expected US economic growth, when viewed in the context of the falling dollar, presented a new inflationary threat.

Mr Baker endorsed the Fed's current policies following an address in New York in which he praised the G7 nations for agreeing on a process of coordinated economic policies which had contributed to more balanced global growth.

He also said that President Reagan would follow through on his threat to veto the omnibus trade legislation now under negotiation in the US Congress if additional protectionist measures are not removed.

At the same time, Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative, said that he feared Congress would add additional protectionist measures to the bill if the Japanese insisted on maintaining a hard line in their negotiations with the US over beef and citrus imports from America.

The highly contentious negotiations, which have already broken down several times, moved into a new stage this week, when Japan indicated that it would block US attempts to seek a settlement to the issue from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"It is impossible to be patient when the first major step toward resolving this issue is thwarted by Japan's action," Mr Yeutter said.

Inspectors interview ex-chairman

By Our City Staff

Mr Patrick Townsend, the former chairman of Matthew Brown, the brewer, has been interviewed recently by Department of Trade-appointed inspectors investigating the leakage of price-sensitive information by civil servants.

In particular, they are trying to ascertain whether a civil servant leaked the findings of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the takeover.

The report, published in November 1985, gave the go-ahead to the Scottish & Newcastle bid. However, details of its conclusions, including the fact that the bid would be cleared, appeared in *The Times* in advance of publication.

Last year, the inspectors sought to force the author of the article, Mr Jeremy Warner, to disclose his sources. He refused and earlier this year was fined £20,000.

There is no suggestion that Mr Townsend was involved in any illegal or improper activities.

The inspectors have also recently interviewed Mr Jonathan Greenwood, a share dealer who was charged with two insider dealing offences last month.

Mr Greenwood is alleged to have received information that two takeover bids — McCorquodale for Richard Clay and BEI for SGB — would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

His source is alleged to be his sister who worked in the mergers secretariat at the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Greenwood denies any involvement in insider dealing.

Analysis blows froth off advertising strategy

Brewers raise a glass to lager

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Lager, the only substantial beer sector showing any growth, attracted more than £65 million worth of advertising last year, more than two-thirds of all such promotional spending by Britain's brewers.

While beer advertising spending overall rose 9 per cent to £94 million, the lager increase was 17 per cent, so that it now accounts for 69 per cent of all beer advertising.

It could be one factor in driving lager sales up further. Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, forecasts more lager than ale being sold to Britain by 1990. A new analysis of beer market promotional spending on television, radio and in the Press by Wood Mackenzie is based on figures which reflect rate card values before volume trade discounts are given, while also excluding production costs.

If all other forms of advertising — notably posters — are taken into account, the brewers' total expenditure on such promotion last year was probably close to £200 million. The costs of sponsorship are not included.

The high spending on lager arises from several factors, according to Wood Mackenzie. There are relatively few national brands in contrast to the much more fragmented and also regional nature of the ale market. The top five lager brands accounted last year for 46 per cent of all lager advertising and a third of the total beer advertising.

The brands are Bass's Carling Black Label and Tennent's Heineken (the Dutch lager brewed in Britain by Whitbread); Carlsberg; and Elders' Foster's. In terms of advertising, Watney Mano and Truman, part of Grand Metropolitan, are involved with both Carlsberg and Foster's.

The brewers are also riding on fashionable change in British taste towards lighter drinks, which is favouring lager against the more traditional bitters and other ales. Lager growth has been moving up about 2 per cent a year, but last year it put on 5 per cent to just under 17 million bulk barrels, or a 45 per cent penetration of the beer market as a whole.

Regional variations are wide, from not much more than a third penetration in the North-west to more than 50 per cent in the South-east. There is also a high penetration in Scotland.

Wood Mackenzie also argues that higher profit margins on lager make extra advertising investment particularly attractive. The average advertising spending on lager is put at 1.3p a pint, against 0.5p a pint for ale, while lager's wholesale price is about 4p higher than for ale (which at the retail point comes out at a differential of at least 8p a pint). Agnost that, brewers have always argued that lagering costs are higher because the process takes longer.

Bass, Britain's biggest brewer with the largest number of pub outlets, is not unexpectedly the heaviest spender on advertising, accounting at £24 million for a quarter of the beer advertising. But there have been aggressive increases from both Watney Mano and Courage. Whitbread, which cut back spending last year, is expected soon to launch a new heavyweight campaign for Heineken.

Advertising spending is also rising steeply to the much smaller, but also growing sector, of non-alcoholic or low-alcohol beers. This spending came to £4.03 million last year, a 67 per cent rise on the previous year. Guinness spent £2.2 million on its Kaliber brand, while Bass put £970,000 behind Barbican.

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(T 94)

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Expanding PML advances to £2.3m

PML Group, the former Paul Michael Leisurewear, made pretax profits in the year to end-December of £2.3 million, against £1.06 million. The total dividend was raised to 1.25p from 1p. The results include just over four months from Alec Bernam, the women's coats and jackets manufacturer.

The company expects to benefit from a rise in the number of Japanese tourists to Europe this year and is extending its Home of Hanover operations in Continental Europe to eight boutiques. It also plans a third British branch in Windsor. PML is poised to make another acquisition.

Motor trade takeover Plaxtons in £2.5m buy

Evans Halshaw, the motor distributor, has bought Auto Control of Birmingham for £550,000 cash. Auto Control manages a fleet of more than 1,600 vehicles on contract hire and fleet management packages. It also produces and markets computer software. Its pretax profit in the year to the end of September was £177,000.

Lep bid for US firm

Lep Group, the freight forwarding, distribution, insurance and travel agency company, is proposing to buy the 59 per cent of National Guardian Corporation, its US associate, that it does not already own. The proposed \$13.75-a-share price values National Guardian at \$137 million (£73.4 million) and the 59 per cent stake at \$80.8 million.

National Guardian sells, leases, installs, services and monitors electronic security systems used primarily to protect businesses and homes against burglary, vandalism and fire. It also provides security officers for property protection.

Kalon to sell Beechwood Cowells tops £1m profit

Kalon Group, the paint manufacturer, is selling Beechwood Brushes to Crispation, a company in which Mr Odel Brown, a director of Kalon, has a shareholding. The price is expected to be about £2.1 million. Beechwood is expected to have made an operating loss of £125,000 in the year to end-December.

RECENT ISSUES

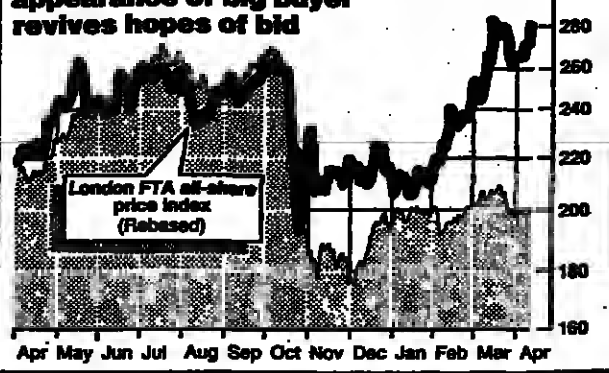
Table with columns for EQUITIES, RECENT ISSUES, and RIGHTS ISSUES. Lists various companies and their share prices.

STOCK MARKETS

Mystery buyer sends S&N share price towards peak

Shares of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries were nudging towards their peak of 293p yesterday with a rise of 13p to 285p after the sudden appearance of a mystery buyer.

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries: appearance of big buyer revives hopes of bid



Meanwhile, rival Allied-Lyons also enjoyed another burst of activity, climbing by 5p to 352p, on reports of stake-building. This week, another Australian brewer, Mr Alan Bond, whose Bond Corporation is famous for its Castlemain

Wilson Bowden held steady at 201p despite the highest of recommendations from Mr Angus Phae, an analyst at County NatWest, the broker, who says that it is a house builder he would put his neck on the block for. Recent figures showed pretax profits soaring from £8.3 million to £17.7 million and Mr Phae is looking for £23 million this time.

XXXX Lager, announced that it had taken its stake in Allied to 7 per cent. By the close of business last night, a further 3.7 million shares had been traded, leading to suggestions that he was adding to his holding - already worth more than £50 million. The market is certainly taking the view that Mr Bond will not be content to sit passively on this sort of investment for long. The rest of the equity market ended the long, three-

only too willing to listen to these days while they continue to sit on funds of about £15 billion which have built up since the crash.

But there were still a few cheap buyers around who seemed prepared to take an optimistic line after the market's dismal performance this account which has seen it badly underperform its two main rivals, Tokyo and New York.

Another steady start to trading on Wall Street enabled prices to close near their best levels of the day with the FTSE 100 index climbing by 18.7 points to 1,779.7 after opening 2.9 down and having been 20.2 higher at one stage. However, it has fallen by 75.8 points, or 4 per cent, during the past three weeks.

The narrower FT index of 30 shares finished the day 14.0 points higher at 1,413.4.

Leading shares nearly all ended the day with solid gains. The action taken to curb the pound's strength was good news for the big exporters. ICI rose by 10p to £10.00, BATA Industries by 6p to 431p. Renault by 4p to 522p and British Aerospace by 12p to 404p. But the vote by Jaguar's workforce to throw out the company's proposals for increased production left the shares 5p lower at 282p.

Welcome, the pharmaceuticals manufacturer, stood out with a rise of 22p at 479p on whispers that the group was about to make a positive announcement about its anti-Aids drug, Retrovir.

Michael Clark

TOKYO

Nikkei loses 20 points

(Reuters) - Share prices closed easier yesterday due to a slightly weaker dollar and a lack of fresh factors to encourage continued buying, brokers said.

The Nikkei average lost 20.33 points to close at 26,748.89 after hitting a morning peak of 26,926.41. The morning enthusiasm quickly tapered off.

The average surged 258.05 points to 26,769.22 on Thursday, surpassing the 26,646.43

NEW YORK

Unsettled start for Dow

(Reuters) - Shares were unsettled and little changed overall in early trading yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average was hovering at about Thursday's closing figure of 2,062.17.

The index rose by half a point on Thursday. Rising and declining shares were evenly matched yesterday.

Staley Continental jumped by 5% to 37% in heavy trading. Tate & Lyle has offered \$32 a share for all its

Table of stock prices for various companies in New York, including AMR, ASA, Amgen, etc.

Table of Canadian stock prices for companies like Agropur, Alcan, etc.

Table of European stock prices for companies like Agnif, Agnif, etc.

Table of Japanese stock prices for companies like Agnif, Agnif, etc.

Table of other international stock prices.

Table of traditional options.

Table of alpha stocks.

Table of various other stock prices and market data.

EEC heads for dispute with US and Japan

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

The European Economic Community is heading for another big trade conflict with the United States and Japan, after unofficial reports that Tokyo and Washington have sealed a deal giving American construction companies preferential access to Japanese public works projects.

Mr Willy de Clercq, the EEC's External Relations Commissioner, demanded an "immediate official declaration by the Japanese government to clarify the situation." He said he was determined to prevent European construction companies being excluded from the Japanese domestic market.

He said: "If it turned out that this agreement was yet another bilateral deal between these two countries to the exclusion of others, that would be very damaging. We take this affair very seriously."

But assurances from Washington and Tokyo about the "non-discriminatory nature" of the agreement had been contradicted by high ranking Japanese officials, who were reported as saying US companies should be given preferential access to Japanese public works contracts.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table of London traded options for various companies and indices.

BRITISH

Table of British stock prices for various companies.

EUROPEAN PRICES

Table of European stock prices for various companies.

ASIAN PRICES

Table of Asian stock prices for various companies.

AFRICAN PRICES

Table of African stock prices for various companies.

AMERICAN PRICES

Table of American stock prices for various companies.

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Advertisement for TSB Bank, highlighting a reduced base rate of 8.50% p.a. to 8.00% and other banking services.

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Tate aims for a larger slice of US sweetener market

By Cliff Feltham

Tate and Lyle, which is bidding £709 million for Staley Continental, has not disguised its interest in the US company whose shares have moved up steadily from the \$18-level since last November.

American arbitrageurs, anticipating a bid, have already picked up a significant holding in the company.

Mr Neil Shaw, the Tate chairman, said he thought it was unlikely another bidder would emerge. "We have a strong presence in the United States and are heavily involved in the agricultural industry. We have a good track record. This deal makes sense."

Staley is a leading supplier of corn syrups - widely used as a sweetener in the soft drinks market - and would provide another important leg for Tate's existing interests in beet sugar and cane sugar, enabling it to compete in all areas of the North American sweetener market.

Corn sweeteners account for 65 per cent of all non-diet sweeteners used in the United States by food and drink manufacturers and 95 per cent of sweeteners used in non-diet soft drinks.

Tate would not keep Staley's food distribution business which has been built up over the last three years and could fetch about \$500 million, according to Mr Shaw.

Tate, Staley and a Belgian company are already involved



Looking West: Neil Shaw reflects on US expansion plans (Photograph: James Morgan)

in CST Group, one of Europe's largest producers of sweeteners from corn and wheat.

Last year Staley made a pretax profit of \$92 million of which two-thirds comes from the corn operations. But Tate is critical of its recent performance, particularly the lavish overheads enjoyed by executives.

Mr Shaw said Staley had

suggested that Tate take a significant stake of up to 20 per cent in the business but then allowed the talks to lapse.

Mr Shaw was highly critical of what he described as "the web of entrenchment devices" which Staley has woven around itself - alleging golden parachute contracts to Mr Donald Nordlund, the chairman, and four other executives worth \$43 million.

Tate has launched a lawsuit

in Delaware, attempting to throw out the scheme which could cost a total of more than \$100 million.

In addition to preference holders who are being asked to back Tate's £208 million cash call on the basis of three new units for every one ordinary share held, Chase Manhattan Bank is providing standby loan facilities of up to \$1,300 million.

Time for investors to think of putting a toe in the water

The score in the Sterling-Mark Mixed Singles is now 30-all. Margaret Thatcher has won her points with a typical backhand smash that left the Commons crowd gasping, and a cross-court volley that struck her opponent in a sensitive part of his anatomy. Nigel Lawson has twice come from behind with two breathtaking lobs from the base line. The City can talk of nothing else.

Yesterday's second half-point cut since the Budget means bank base rates, now 8 per cent, are at their lowest since 1978. It also means that in their confusion - no expert as far as I know expected lower interest rates yesterday - the soothsayers have even more reason to contradict each other. Disagreements are what make markets and should therefore not be despised.

The argument against another quick base rate cut was that cheaper money would provide extra fuel for rising retail spending, and do nothing to diminish the rate at which average earnings are advancing. More credit and more pay, coupled with the Budget benefits, spell more spending on imported goods and thus more pressure on an already deteriorating current balance of payments account.

The argument for lower base rates is two-fold: to help keep soaring sterling under control (an "uncompetitive" pound via falling exports also puts pressure on the balance of payments), and to make a positive gesture in advance of next week's meeting in Washington of the Group of Seven finance ministers, where exchange rate stability and the crucial issue of the health of the dollar are on the agenda. The last time they met was three weeks before world stock markets crashed on October 19-20, but I think it unlikely that history is about to repeat itself.



KENNETH FLEET

The G7 (US, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada) meeting has already had a marked effect on the markets, if for an apparently fictitious reason. A report out of Japan that the meeting would agree a support level of Y125 for the dollar, later strenuously denied, sent Wall Street into a paroxysm of delight. On Wednesday the Dow Jones industrial average surged 64.16 points to 2,061.67 in rising volume. Apart from its doubtful origin this sudden climb is not altogether to be trusted. But it does indicate how Wall Street can turn on the dollar. Nothing that you would call a policy initiative directed at the twin deficits (budget and trade) will be taken before the next President is installed in the White House - and maybe not then.

Wall Street will not unequivocally shed its bearish feelings as long as it senses that a lower dollar and higher interest rates may be necessary to improve the trade balance and finance the deficit. The same cannot be said of Japan where on Thursday the Tokyo market went above the high of October 14, just five days before the crash. Again if you are superstitious you can argue that Tokyo has now made a charists' classic double top and Thursday's peak presages a big fall.

I am not superstitious, though I suspect not even the Tokyo market can sustain its upward momentum. I take

heart from three simple truths about Japan: they have the strongest economy, which is working well to the greater profit of Japanese corporations; they have released, as from April 1, a new source of funds for stock market investment by removing, with appropriate exceptions (the aged, disabled and single mothers), tax relief from small savings; and they manage their market for maximum satisfaction. It is a blend of Oriental magic that foreign investors who deserted Tokyo in droves after October are again finding irresistible.

The London market still lacks conviction and is prey to the prevailing overseas winds. It has become an overwhelmingly institutional market in which trading in stocks is more important than investing in companies. Fund managers as a breed are not men of courage and vision, or if they are they like to feel they all share the same vision and exhibit the same courage on the same day. That way no one can be accused of getting it wrong.

It is not a very satisfactory market at present, and as regular readers will know I have consistently advised caution. The encouraging facts are that UK Ltd is in good nick, and the equity market is certainly not now overvalued, except on the "end of the world is nigh" view.

As I wrote last Saturday, 1,720-1,750 on the FT-SE index looks like a basement during the week this was tested and held. It is worth remembering the Rothschild dictum that you do not make money waiting to sell within 10 per cent of the peak or to buy within 10 per cent of the bottom.

You should be thinking about putting a toe in the water. Next week I might be rash enough to suggest a few places you might wriggle it!

Leads for... with... Japan

...Dynes, Brussels... "I think we have a... ask precisely what... means," he said... binding an immediate... assure the European... tion industry that it... works projects on an... and non-discrimin... basis."... Japan's attempt to... source of economic... from exports to domestic... demand is generating a... in the construction... Projects include the... billion pound Kansai... national Airport develop... near Osaka, which US... European construction... panics are eager to share... Mr de Clercq said... addition to excluding... Japanese companies from... such bilateral trade... violation of the North... international free trade... Bilateral trade accord... ously undermined the... of trade liberalization... being negotiated by the... Trade (GATT), he said... Washington and... were severely embarras... month, after GATT desiste... 1986 US-Japanese... agreement on semiconductor... a violation of internat... trade law.

TRADED OPTIONS

Table with columns for various stock options and their prices.

Oil reserves up by 8% at Shell Group

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group found nearly twice as much oil as it produced last year, but ran down its gas reserves.

Its 1987 annual report, published yesterday, revealed that group oil reserves at the end of 1987 amounted to 8,400 million barrels - 630 million barrels (8 per cent) more than at the end of 1986, despite net production of 644 million barrels (1.77 million barrels per day).

Group gas reserves, in contrast, were run down by nearly 1,000 billion cubic feet (BCF) during the period to 39,000 BCF after production of 2,400 BCF.

British Petroleum's annual report shows that it, too, succeeded in increasing its reserves of oil, by a net 350 million barrels (7 per cent) to 5,000 million barrels.

Stormgard diversifies with £6.7m takeover

By Alison Eadie

Stormgard, the women's fashion and knitwear group, has continued diversifying into specialist market businesses by acquiring Hydro Dynamic Products for a cost of up to £6.7 million.

HDP manufactures and distributes cleaning materials and supplies for the printing and publishing industry. In the year to end-June, HDP made pretax profits, before non-recurring expenses, of £550,000 on a turnover of £3.38 million. Profits in the six months to the end of December were £325,000 on sales of £1.75 million.

An initial payment of £3.3 million will be made through the issue of new shares, which are being offered to existing shareholders on a one-for-four basis.

The payment will be topped

Terry & Sons assurance on resale pricing

Joseph Terry & Sons, the confectionery maker, has given an assurance to Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of Fair Trading, that it will not in future attempt to maintain minimum resale prices for its products.

The assurance comes after complaints to the Office of Fair Trading by Nurdin & Peacock, the cash-and-carry operator. Nurdin had complained that Terry had threatened to withdraw bonuses if two of Terry's boxed chocolate lines - the 1lb versions of All Gold and Moonlight - were sold below specified prices.

Terry has agreed to write to its dealers saying they are free to sell its goods at whatever price they choose.

However, it reminds dealers that it has rights to prevent them selling as loss-leaders.

Opec under pressure to cut production

By Colin Narborough

Oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, meeting in Vienna today, are under pressure to try to regain control of world prices, after the latest figures show members have overshoot their self-imposed production limit.

Prices are currently hovering around the \$15 (£8.03) a barrel mark, well below the \$18 average price Opec wanted to achieve.

The meeting of Opec's five-member price-monitoring committee, which takes place as oversupply continues to dog the market and depress prices, could call an emergency meeting of all 13 member countries to decide on production cuts.

But this option was firmly ruled out on the eve of the talks by Opec officials, and Mr Ghanjar Kartasmita, the

Terry & Sons assurance on resale pricing

Indonesian oil minister, who foresees no policy changes at all emerging this weekend, an appeal to Opec members to stick to their quotas.

Statistics issued yesterday by the International Energy Agency, based in Paris, showed estimated Opec crude oil production averaging 17.6 million barrels per day last month, compared with 17.4 million the previous month.

It noted that the 12 Opec countries with agreed quotas - Iraq remains outside the accord - pumped some 15.2 million barrels daily, exceeding their 15.06 million target.

IEA attributed the overshoot mainly to increased output by Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Opec under pressure to cut production

Large world stocks of oil, plus the mild winter in the northern hemisphere, have pushed prices down, forcing producers to give substantial discounts on the \$18 price.

Despite the reluctance for any serious movement before the summer, market talk has suggested co-ordinated output cuts by Opec and non-Opec members.

But Mr Kartasmita, commenting on last December's price and output, said he did not think the ministers would decide anything. "We are here to review the oil market situation," he said.

His words were reinforced by reports from Saudi Arabia that King Fahd had issued a personal appeal to all oil producers to support the \$18 price.

Overheads discipline puts heart back into Brown Boveri Kent

There is nothing like revealing poor results on a Friday afternoon to sidestep the more acrimonious comments which are the inevitable consequence of reporting figures 35 per cent below the previous year and well below market expectations.

But Brown Boveri Kent has not lost heart, and sees its problems as a thing of the past.

Securing contracts at suicidal margins in the competitive site services market had a devastating effect on profits in the control systems division. This activity has, however, now been severely curtailed, so its divisional sales should account for 20 per cent of the group total this year, compared with 27 per cent last year.

The slack will be taken up by the water meters business, which was the best performer in 1987, accounting for 28 per cent of sales and set to rise to 35 per cent in 1988.

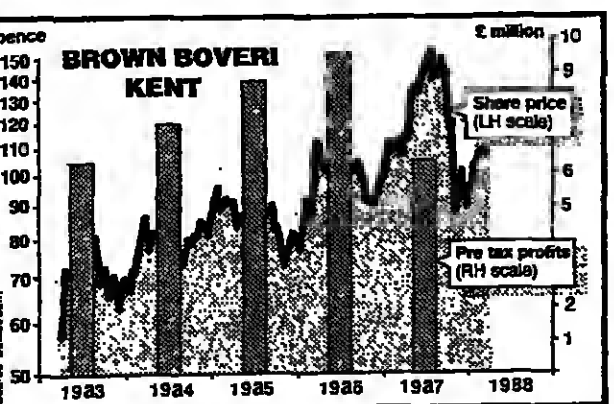
Tighter disciplines have been implemented in both the general management of the group and, more specifically, on the overheads side. The benefits should come through this year, taking profits back to the levels enjoyed in 1986.

Currencies remain a risk, however, with the use of year-end rates having knocked at least £1 million off 1987 pretax profits.

The controlling holding by ABB Asea Brown Boveri, the European company, protests this group from a hostile takeover. But even this relatively benevolent parent may tire of the group if its performance continues to lag. Meanwhile, yesterday's share price fall takes most of the current uncertainty on board.

S Jerome

S Jerome, the Yorkshire textiles and electronics group which reported strong preliminary results, looks set for another record year this year. After a 61 per cent jump in pretax profits last year to £2.1 million, analysts are looking for a further rise of about 20



per cent this year, to £2.5 million.

Although it has successfully broken into the market for electronic security and communications equipment, Jerome remains primarily a spinning and weaving company, deriving 80 per cent of its turnover and 90 per cent of its profits from textiles.

Last year, the yarn dyeing division saw the installation of new high-tech colour matching equipment which reads colours, optically for colour matching and produces computerized dye recipes. Practically all coloured yarns are dyed to the customers' orders and Jerome stocks only white yarns in bulk.

The weaving side, which supplies cloth to "makers-up" for many high street stores, including Marks and Spencer, C&A and Burton, has benefited from a trend towards a smarter appearance, especially among men. Its cloth is used in the manufacture of men's and women's suits and casual wear.

After spending £2.7 million on new capital investment during the last five years, Jerome is planning to spend another £2 million this year - all of it on the textiles side. Fourteen new Sultzer weaving machines were delivered last week at a cost of nearly £1 million.

Meanwhile, the whole of its yarn manufacturing division has been running at maximum capacity and new spinning machines are scheduled for delivery at the end of this month. The worsted spinning activ-

ities are being relocated in Kettleby, West Yorkshire, where the group has taken possession of a single storey building of 100,000 square feet and the new facilities should be in full production in July.

According to analysts, earnings per share could rise by 14 per cent to 27.9p, putting the shares on a prospective multiple of eight. The modest rating, combined with a prospective yield of 4.2, makes the shares attractive.

Overseas traders

The overseas traders sector is becoming something of an anachronism. Its principle players could slip unnoticed into the growing "conglomerates" classification.

Given the constituent companies' broad range of activities and geographical spread, it is becoming increasingly difficult to use general factors to predict sector performance. The sector's volatile performance over the last six months highlights this dilemma.

Its exposure to currency movements and regions affected by the United States economy meant the sector fared badly in October's market crash. It was one of the worst performers by the year end.

Since then it has leapt back into favour, winning one of the top performing spots. This was partly a corrective move, as the sector had been marked

down rather indiscriminately. A more telling factor was the rash of stories on the stocks themselves.

A rising gold price pushed Lornro higher while firmer palm oil prices underpinned Harrisoo's & Crosfield's shares. Now the pendulum has swung too far the other way, or so says Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker.

In its quarterly review of the sector, which also previews company results, BZW says that the relatively strong performance likely to surround the reporting season will provide a perfect opportunity to lighten holdings.

The broker does not overlook each company's strengths, but stresses that the fever over currencies and economies should not be forgotten.

While acknowledging that talk of doom and gloom in the aftermath of the crash was overdue, the BZW analysis points out that the rate of growth in the countries and industries important to the overseas traders will seem poor, compared with 1987.

BZW says that although companies using year-end exchange rates were hit when sterling appreciated in the final quarter, average rate translators will be affected this year. Thus the currency factor has not gone away, either.

On the demand front, some commodities have been better performers, albeit from a low base, but cocoa and coffee have remained depressed while tea has marked time.

BZW considers the sector to be about 10 per cent too high. Lornro and Harrisoo's & Crosfield are on the "sell" list, as both shares are thought to be up with events, while Inchcape is rated no more than a hold.

Polly Peck is the only one of the majors to justify a "buy" recommendation, but one suspects this is because the prospective p/e is less than six time earnings.

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leads for
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ask think we have a right means," he said. He mandated an immediate binding commitment to assure the European construction industry that it would be able to bid for Japanese works projects on an equal and non-discriminatory basis.

Japan's attempt to shift the source of economic growth from exports to domestic demand is generating a big boom in the construction sector.

Projects include the multi-billion pound Kansai International Airport development near Osaka, which US European construction companies are eager to share.

Mr de Clercq said that in addition to excluding Japanese domestic firms from such bilateral deals, a violation of the spirit of international free trade.

Bilateral trade accounts have seriously undermined the process of trade liberalization being negotiated by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), he said.

Washington and Tokyo were severely embarrassed last month after GATT declared a 1986 US-Japanese bilateral agreement on semiconductor trade law.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this page. If the weekly dividend figure on this page, if you own a share of the total weekly dividend, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Claim rates appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	Dixons Grp (sa)	Drugs/Retail	DRX	172	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
2	Donck Jansen	Building/Roads	DNK	174	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
3	Warford	Property	WAR	175	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
4	Woodwards (sa)	Drugs/Retail	WWD	176	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
5	Federmat Hsg	Building/Roads	FED	177	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
6	McKissock	Building/Roads	MCK	178	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
7	Carbury-Comp (sa)	Food	CAR	179	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
8	Carlton Comm	Paper/Print/Adv	CAR	180	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
9	Flintcom	Motors/Aircraft	FLI	181	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
10	Amrad (sa)	Electricals	AMR	182	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
11	West & Country	Property	WES	183	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
12	Adwest	Industrial A-D	ADW	184	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
13	Carlo Eng	Industrial A-D	CAR	185	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
14	T & N (sa)	Industrial S-Z	TAN	186	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
15	Bank of Ireland	Bank/Discount	BOI	187	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
16	Midsomer	Leisure	MID	188	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
17	Charter Cons	Industrial A-D	CHA	189	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
18	Rosson (MS)	Building/Roads	ROS	190	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
19	BAT (sa)	Tobacco	BAT	191	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
20	RAF	Motors/Aircraft	RAF	192	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
21	Benson Clark	Industrial A-D	BEN	193	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
22	British Gas (sa)	Oil/Gas	BGS	194	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
23	Stanley	Building/Roads	STA	195	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
24	Crap Nicholson	Building/Roads	CRA	196	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
25	Waple	Property	WAP	197	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
26	SEET	Textiles	SEET	198	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
27	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Pls	YOR	199	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
28	Metal Box (sa)	Industrial L-R	MEX	200	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
29	Eurochem	Chemicals/Pls	EUR	201	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
30	Grands (sa)	Industrial EX	GRD	202	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
31	Color Gp	Oil/Gas	COL	203	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
32	Atrona	Industrial A-D	ATR	204	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
33	Crowther (I)	Textiles	CRO	205	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
34	Sound Diffusion	Electricals	SND	206	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
35	Clyfford	Property	CYF	207	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
36	Bett Bros	Building/Roads	BET	208	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
37	BICC (sa)	Electricals	BIC	209	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
38	RHP	Industrial L-R	RHP	210	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
39	Flamport	Property	FLA	211	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
40	Security Serv	Electricals	SEC	212	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
41	Levi & Metro	Industrial S-Z	LEV	213	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
42	Bechtel (sa)	Industrial A-D	BEH	214	+	0.1	1.2	0.7
43	Rank Org (sa)	Industrial L-R	RAN	215	+	0.1	1.2	0.7

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 to today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

UNDATED

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

INDEX-LINKED

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Firm end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 21. Dealings ended yesterday. \$Contango day Monday. Settlement day April 18. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

BREWERIES

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, ROADS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCE, LAND

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

FOODS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

CINEMAS, TV

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

DRAPERY, STORES

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

HOTELS, CATERERS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICALS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

كازمان الاحول

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000

Claims required for 192 points

ACCUMULATOR £10,000

Claims better than 192 points

Claimants should ring 0254-5372

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

INSURANCE

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

LEISURE

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

Mining

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

SHIPPING

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

SHOES, LEATHER

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

TEXTILES

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

TOBACCO

1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88	1987/88
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

SB BANK

from the close of business on April 1988 and notice. TSB Base decreased from 8.00% to 8.00%

SB BANK

from the close of business on April 1988 and notice. TSB Base decreased from 8.00% to 8.00%

A mortgage that changes with the bank rate

Mortgages where the interest rate is adjusted every three months in line with bank rates are now available from Citibank Savings at 9.45 per cent. But this is just the introductory offer. After three months, the rate will be adjusted to one per cent above the three-month Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate), which is 8.625 per cent.

New advice centres

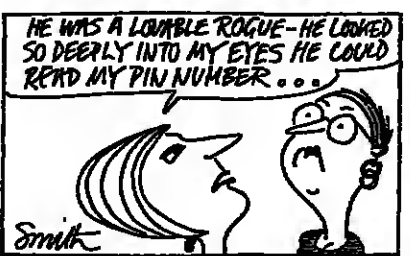
The Yorkshire Building Society is to set up financial advice centres in some of its branches for the public to get advice on a wide range of financial problems. It aims to cover advice on taxation, conveyancing, general insurance, unit trust and share-dealing. Six of the society's 155 branches will be covered this year, in the Yorkshire area, and more advice centres will follow.

Cash-cards stolen

In one year more than 13 per cent of the Halifax cash-cards were reported lost or stolen, and 15 per cent of them had been used. This insight into the dangers of the automatic teller machine (ATM) network is reported in a recent survey, ATM Networks, their Organisation, Security and Future. The figures for missing ATM cards came from the Halifax because it was one of the few card-providers willing to talk about

the problem. "There are no secrets here," said Jim Murgatroyd, the society's assistant general manager, adding that not one case of a "phantom withdrawal" has been found out of 103 reported "phantom" withdrawals involved ATMs near the card-holder's home, and the others could all be explained.

A Halifax official said: "If the computer system were spontaneously generating a withdrawal, this might be expected to occur anywhere." Many of the problems over phantom withdrawals occur because members of the family have access to the card-holder's PIN. Many people still do not heed the warning not to write their number in an obvious place;



one card found recently actually had the PIN written on it.

ATM Networks, published by Elsevier Advanced Technology Publications, priced £145

Fund bulletin launched

The Hill Samuel Portfolio fund of funds launched this weekend offers investors a quarterly investment bulletin and annual seminars around the country. The fund, which invests solely in Hill Samuel unit trusts, and has a minimum investment of £5,000, is aimed at those who do not have enough capital to qualify for bespoke investment-management services yet still want their portfolio actively managed. The initial management charge is 5 per cent and the annual charge 1.5 per cent, but there is no double-charging. All switches between funds are free of the initial charge, but there is still the bid-offer spread.

Figure it out

"You may be a good fairy" writes one reader commenting on Family Money's Capital Gains Tax table, "but your arithmetic has gone to the devil." The article, which was published in February 1987, had an indexed value of £1,255. But, as everyone knows, £1,000 x 0.255 equals £255, not £1,255 as we wrote. The original cost plus the original cost plus the adjustment for inflation, multiply the original cost of your investment by the appropriate CGT allowance factor given in our table.

Discount safety

Customers storing jewellery and valuables in the safe deposit centres owned by Metropolitan Safa Centres are being offered world-wide all-risks insurance at up to a quarter the normal rate. The insurance, designed to protect valuables automatically when taken out of their boxes for up to 80 days, will cost £1 per £100 of cover instead of around £4 charged by insurers for all-risks cover in the highest-rated areas.

Guernsey breakthrough

Guernsey-based life assurance companies have the go-ahead to market their products on the UK mainland now that the island has "designated territory" status under Section 130 of the Financial Services Act. Authorities on the island had to satisfy the Department of Trade and Industry that its legislative framework provides protection for investors equivalent to that provided on the mainland.

TOP-TEN AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

£100 invested from April 1 1987 to April 1 1988

Table with columns: Fund, £100 invested from April 1 1987 to April 1 1988, £. Includes funds like Hill Samuel Japanese Technology, Cannon Japan, Guinness Mahon High Income, etc.

Prices up down under

Australian unit trusts bounced back in March as "mad as a hatter" commodity prices fed through to the stock market, according to Opal Statistics.

The top-performing trust over the month was SIM Australian, which increased in value by 17.5 per cent, on an offer-to-offer basis says Opal, writes Maria Scott. The average return in the Australian sector was 9.7 per cent.

David Hitchins, investment manager of Australasia and gold funds with M & G, explained that share prices in Australia took a particularly heavy beating during the crash in October and were slow to respond when markets elsewhere started to rally early this year.

The recent turnaround has been fuelled by demand for commodities, a majority of the Australian equities. The Australian All-Ordinaries index rose 9.1 per cent between

January 4 and March 31. The price of nickel, used in the manufacture of stainless steel, has nearly quadrupled this year.

Opal warns that despite the good one-month performance, from the Australian sector, the one-year return still shows a loss of 39.3 per cent.

Japanese trusts faltered in March. Half the trusts in this sector reported a loss in the month, although over one year, Japanese trusts still dominate, as the table shows.

Michael Thomas of the Japanese department at stockbrokers Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers believes that the hiccup in March is caused by technical factors rather than underlying problems.

More than 30 per cent of the Tokyo Nikkei index consists of financial stocks, which have moved sharply upwards recently, playing a large part in driving the index up.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Table with columns: Nominal rate, Compounded return at tax rates (25%, 40%), Min/max investment, Notice, Contact. Includes sections for BANKS, BUILDING SOCIETIES, MONEY FUNDS, NATIONAL SAVINGS, GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS, FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS.



Retail Prices Index (Feb '87 to Feb '88)

+3.7%

Mortgage rate*

10.3%-10.8%

Bank base rate

8% (effective from Monday)

Bank prime overdraft rate*

11.5%-16% APR

Personal loan rate*

19% APR

Credit card rate*

23.1% APR

Hire purchase rate*

26% APR

Bank deposit account

2.5%

Building society or ordinary account

4%

High-interest cheque account*

6%

Holiday exchange rates*

Spanish peseta 200.97, French franc 237.60, Greek drachma 2262.20, Italian lira 2262.20

*Typical rates, £1,000 over 12 months APR - annual percentage rate

BASE LENDING RATES

Table with columns: Institution, Rate. Includes ABN, Adam & Company, BCCI, Consolidated Crds, etc.

BOTTOM TEN UNIT TRUSTS

£100 invested from April 1 1987 to April 1 1988

Table with columns: Fund, £100 invested from April 1 1987 to April 1 1988, £. Includes funds like EBC Amro French Growth, Handerson Global Resources, Fidelity Australia, etc.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes sections for UK OPPORTUNITY, EAGLE STAR ASSURANCE, NLS SAMUEL LIFE, etc.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes sections for LON & MANCHESTER GROUP, ROYAL LIFE ASSURANCE, etc.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes sections for ROYAL LIFE ASSURANCE, SCOTCH LIFE INVESTMENTS, etc.

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Equity Fd Acc, European Fd Acc, etc.

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like UK Opporunity, Eagle Star Assurance, etc.

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like LON & Manchest Group, Royal Life Assurance, etc.

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like TSB Life Ltd, etc.

BLACK HORSE LIFE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Black Horse Life, etc.

BLACK HORSE LIFE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Hill Samuel Life, etc.

BLACK HORSE LIFE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like LON & Manchest Group, etc.

BLACK HORSE LIFE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like TSB Life Ltd, etc.

COLONIAL MUTUAL

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Colonial Mutual, etc.

COLONIAL MUTUAL

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Hill Samuel Life, etc.

COLONIAL MUTUAL

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like LON & Manchest Group, etc.

COLONIAL MUTUAL

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like TSB Life Ltd, etc.

GUARDIAN LIFE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Guardian Life, etc.

GUARDIAN LIFE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Hill Samuel Life, etc.

GUARDIAN LIFE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like LON & Manchest Group, etc.

GUARDIAN LIFE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like TSB Life Ltd, etc.

ROYAL LIFE ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Royal Life Assurance, etc.

ROYAL LIFE ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like Hill Samuel Life, etc.

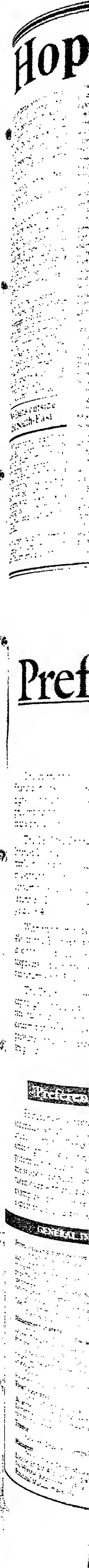
ROYAL LIFE ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like LON & Manchest Group, etc.

ROYAL LIFE ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bd, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes funds like TSB Life Ltd, etc.

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Pref

OSKAR

OSKAR

OSKAR

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith

Hope on the way

The cut in bank lending rates yesterday by a further half point to 8 per cent makes it almost certain that those banks and building societies that have not yet cut their rates in response to the last half-point cut in Budget week will now move.

For instance, Abbey National, whose rate is still 10.1, says the rate is under active review.

The Halifax, which was the first building society to announce a cut for new borrowers but held back from announcing a new rate for existing borrowers, said yesterday that they would get a reduction to 9.7 per cent or perhaps an even lower rate from May 1.

There can be disappointments in pursuing the cheapest mortgage available. Paul Murphy has just completed a commission in the Army and is moving from Harrogate, North Yorkshire, to Nottingham to take up a job with a financial services company.

Paul, 31, and his wife Fiona, 27, an economics and government lecturer, wanted a

down and the people in London have no leeway to operate outside those criteria. I would have thought we were just the sort of people they wanted to do business with. House prices in some parts of the North, especially the east coast around Lincolnshire, are experiencing fast-moving house prices.

"But they said they do not want to branch out too quickly. They seem to have no flexibility at all."

Neil MacGregor, Sumitomo's assistant general manager in charge of mortgages, denied the bank was operating a red-lining policy that rules out the entire North of England. He said: "Red-lining is not about providing a service. We believe we have to be in a position to deal with customers. We want them to be able to come in and see us and not have to deal with us on the telephone."

Sumitomo has a branch office in Birmingham - yet it will not lend on property in Birmingham. It says it aims to lend in the South-West and Midlands soon.

"The only way to keep the interest rate down is by controlling costs," said Mr MacGregor. "If we expand before we have people capable of coping, things could get out of hand."

Mr MacGregor added: "I come from the North myself. I would not discriminate against the North of England."

The building societies used to be accused of red-lining whole chunks of Britain with the poorest housing. But in 1975, after local authorities were prevented from giving home loans, building societies had to set aside sums for



Disappointed: Mr and Mrs Murphy were refused their loan

people referred by local councils. These loans tended to go to people who would have been refused a loan in the past, and so the red-line policy came crumbling down.

Automatic policy against the North

The move to the rehabilitation of old houses and gentrification of run-down inner-city areas helped to end the policy. It is ironic that now some of the dearest property - in the East End of London, for instance - would have been outside building society lending zones 15 years ago.

Adrian Coles, of the Building Societies Association, maintains that almost all the new lenders, by which he means banks rather than

building societies, run an automatic red-lining policy against the North of England, where prices are lower than in the South-East, by imposing high minimum loans of £30,000 or £40,000.

Sumitomo has a minimum loan of £30,000, National Australia £40,000, and Allied Arab Bank £50,000.

Chase Manhattan Bank, whose minimum is £25,000, will not lend in Scotland or Northern Ireland. "House prices and income levels in Northern Ireland would not meet our lending criteria," said a spokesman. But the bank intends moving into Scotland. It says it is not lending there at the moment because of the different legal system.

Vivien Goldsmith

Axe hangs over pension loans

Pension mortgages appear poised to go the way of all good tax breaks. The Inland Revenue is taking a tough line on the way they will be marketed under the new pensions regime.

Ian Thomson, joint marketing manager for Scottish Widows, says pension mortgages could become extinct.

The Revenue is unhappy about the advantages being used for purposes other than those for which they are meant - providing for retirement.

Pension mortgages have been most popular among the self-employed and those without access to a company pension scheme. The pension contracts, known as Section 226 contracts, used to provide pensions for these people, have allowed the life companies to link them to mortgages with impunity because regulations state that Section 226s must be used mainly to provide a pension.

The new personal pensions coming on to the market from July 1 must be used exclusively for retirement benefits.

A Revenue spokesman explains that this does not mean people cannot use the lump sum from their maturing pension contract to repay their mortgage. But the Revenue would look twice at a pension scheme openly promoting a facility for linking to a mortgage.

Although in theory it will be possible to use a personal pension to pay off a mortgage, life companies are already envisaging great difficulty in marketing them without falling foul of the Revenue.

Increasingly, lenders are willing to use the proceeds of company pension schemes for repayment of home loans and there is concern that the Revenue may get tough here too. This week the Confederation of British Industry warned employers to tread carefully in case the Revenue took a hard look at tax approval on schemes that promoted the use of the benefits to repay mortgages.

A pension mortgage works in a similar way to an endowment scheme. The borrower pays interest to the lender but pays premiums to a life company in return for a pension. The pension lump sum on retirement can be used to pay off the original mortgage and there is a pension as well.

The borrower receives tax relief on the mortgage interest and on the premiums paid to the life company. Money invested by the life company also enjoys the privilege of being able to roll up tax-free.

According to the Abbey National, a man aged 30 with a £30,000 mortgage spanning 30 years will pay £228.78 a month for a pension mortgage at a 25 per cent tax rate. If he pays 40 per cent tax he will pay £220.90. For this he can expect to build up benefits to pay off the mortgage and possibly get a cash surplus as well as an annual pension.

A couple with the same sized mortgage over 30 years will pay slightly more per month for a low-cost endowment or repayment mortgage than the man who plans to repay his loan from a pension plan.

Maria Scott

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Norwich Union	Standard Life
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Provident Mutual	Target Life

Zurich Life

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- Unit trusts
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- Pensions
- Retired or Retiring
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- I am an existing *Towry Law* client Yes/No

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No loans outside the South-East

£56,000 loan to buy a £62,000 house. But when they approached Sumitomo Bank, which aims to expand its business in Britain by having the most competitive rate - at present 9.4 per cent - they discovered what looked like a red-lining policy. Sumitomo would not lend outside the South-East.

Mr Murphy said: "It seems the decisions are made in Japan. The criteria are handed

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	10.5
Adem & Company	10.5
BCCI	10.5
Commerzbank	10.5
Coopers & Lybrand	10.5
C. Hoare & Co.	10.5
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.5
Lloyds Bank	10.5
Nat Westminster	10.5
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.5
TSE	10.5
UBA	10.5
UBA	10.5

KEY RATES

FROM APRIL TO APRIL THE BUSINESS SCENARIO - BUT THE CHART STAYS THE SAME FOR EVER!

Retail Prices Index (Feb '87 to Feb '88)	+3.7%
Mortgage rate*	10.3%-10.8%
Bank base rate	8% (effective from Monday)
Bank prime overdraft rate*	11.5-16% APR
Personal loan rate*	19% APR
Credit card rate*	23.1% APR
Hire purchase rate*	26% APR
Bank deposit account	2.5%
Building society ordinary account	4%
High-interest cheque account*	6%
Holiday exchange rates*	
Spanish peseta	166.5
French franc	6.55
Greek drachma	340
Italian lira	2036

* Typical rates
* £1,000 over 12 months
APR = annual percentage rate

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Estimated gross starting yield.

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This section of the portfolio includes gilts and corporate fixed interest securities, such as debentures and loan stocks. In the case of gilts, both the income and repayment values are guaranteed by the Government. Debentures and loan stocks are issued by companies, usually yield more than gilts and, like preference shares, will often produce additional capital gains if the stock is repaid early or if the company is taken over.

Convertibles

Convertibles are also issued by companies and, like most fixed interest investments, provide a fixed level of income and repayment of capital on a specified date. However, they also offer the unique option of conversion into the issuing company's ordinary shares. Because of their high yield and guaranteed repayment date, convertibles tend to hold up much better than ordinary shares in a falling equity market, whereas they tend to follow closely when the market rises.

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To purchase units, simply complete the form below and return it together with your cheque made payable to Prolific Unit Trust Managers Limited. Units will remain on offer at a fixed price of 50p until 22nd April, 1988, and a 1% discount in the form of additional units will also be given on all investments received by that date. Thereafter, units may be purchased at the offer price ruling on the day we receive your instructions.

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A 1% discount will be given, in the form of additional units, on all investments received by 22nd April, 1988. Investments received after 22nd April, 1988 will be subject to the offer price ruling on the day of receipt.

My/Our remittance, made payable to Prolific Unit Trust Managers Ltd is enclosed. I/We are over 18 years of age.

Please indicate if you:

- 1. wish all net income to be reinvested automatically in additional units.
- 2. wish income distributions to be paid directly into your bank account.
- 3. would like to receive details on our monthly savings plan (minimum £30).

Surname (Mr/Ms/Miss) _____
Forename(s) in full _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone _____

Signature _____

In the case of joint subscriptions, the full names and signatures of all investors should be provided on a separate piece of paper. This offer is not open to the residents of the Republic of Ireland. T.9.4

FAMILY MONEY

هكزامن الأحميل

The man to answer your queries



Bill Packer, left, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, and author of several money guides, will be helping Family Money to answer readers' letters.

any advice or statements in these columns. Independent professional advice should always be sought. Family Money welcomes readers' letters - the shorter the better - for publication but regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice

LETTERS

You can leave it behind

I have recently been seeing some new "financial advisers". They suggest my wife and I change the ownership of our house (worth, say, £80,000) from joint tenancy to a tenancy-in-common basis and we should then alter our will so that on the first death, one half of the value of the house would be given in trust to our three children.

They say that this will not have any adverse effects and would still allow the survivor to sell and buy a different house at will. The change would, they say, reduce inheritance tax by £17,200.

I had always thought that there were no simple ways of reducing the liability for inheritance tax.

I am almost 72 and my wife 71, the children are 42 (twins) and 35. Our total assets are just short of £200,000, including the house.

K. DURROW, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne

Your inquiry is interesting because, in a sense, it goes to the heart of the working of English law. The immediate point is that if you and your wife hold as joint tenants, then on the death of the first, the deceased's share of the property passes to the other spouse automatically.

This transfer of value is free of tax (being a transfer between spouses), but it does add to the value of the estate of the surviving spouse.

But if you and your wife hold your shares in the property as "tenants in common," each of you has the right to dispose of your share of the property to whomever you would wish to benefit. At that point, inheritance tax (if any) would be payable only on half the value of the property then passing, leaving the other half of the property in the hands of the surviving spouse for disposal on his/her death.

Both spouses are entitled to leave an amount of their estate free of inheritance tax regardless of who receives it. This amount varies with each Budget and may be reduced by gifts made in the seven years prior to death, but is now £110,000.

Where one spouse dies leaving his or her entire estate to the survivor, or dies in possession of a very small estate, this tax-free amount is wasted. The idea of adopting a "tenancy in common" is to give both spouses an estate which they can leave outside their marriage.

If it were possible to divide your combined estates equally between you and leave each share separately to your children, then on the figures you give no inheritance tax would be payable at any stage.

It could be wrong to leave so little wealth in the hands of the surviving spouse that he or she suffers financial hardship. Another difficulty is that dividing ownership between the survivor and the children, can create problems in family relationships.

ANNE M. ELKAN (MRS), Bishop's Road, Cambridge CB2 2NH

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Shooting the rapids: It's exciting for the participants but it has to be safe

Making holidays safer

Parents have until next Friday to add their comments on safety precautions for children on adventure holidays and other play schemes to those of the experts, writes Vivian Goldsmith.

The Austrian accident in which four schoolboys died this week has highlighted the need for some checks on adventure schemes. At present there are insufficient checks and legal standards imposed on centres in this country.

More than 10 years ago the Consumers' Association called for a registration scheme. The Department of Health and Social Security has at last produced a consultation paper, Day Care and Residential Holidays for Children Over Five, which suggests either a registration scheme or the setting-up of voluntary codes of conduct.

The 80-member British Activity Holidays Association already has a code of conduct, but no way of imposing this on members or checking that they are adhering to it.

The association's chief executive, Bill Higginson, who runs an activity holiday centre in Powys, Wales, says: "We are funded solely by subscriptions. Unfortunately at this stage it does not run to our forming an independent inspectorate, but this is still our aim. We are looking for sponsors."

The association invited local trading standards officers to inspect about a quarter of its members last summer. They had no power to enforce their suggestions. Their warnings concerned matching the photographs in brochures to the actual facilities used and the possibility of misleading "typical menus" and the like.

But what alarmed the Consumers' Association when it investigated adventure holidays two years ago was safety standards. It found lax practices, such as a swimming pool with a 1m-high diving board above less than 2m of water and a parked Staircase CS that rolled down a slope towards children until stopped by a Whitch? inspector. The Consumers' Association is still finalizing its formal response to the consultation paper.

Adventure holidays are big business. PGL, which has been running for 30 years, expects to entertain 50,000 children this summer in 21 centres in the UK, plus others on the Continent. The holidays cost from £39 for a weekend or £159 for a week, but special-interest holidays can be a lot more expensive. A week-long motor-sport holiday costs £225.

Comments on proposed legislation should be sent to CS3C, DHSS, Room B1409, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6BY

PEP with pep

Please will you tell me if there is a PEP scheme in which I may invest in my own choice of companies? Those PEP schemes I have seen which allow one to choose limited the choice to a list of companies, which all seem to be well-established.

I would like to invest in some less well known companies, but have yet to find a PEP scheme which will allow me to do so.

JANE REYNOLDS (MISS), Firs Road, West Mersea, Colchester CO5 8NL

Under PEP regulations, your choice of companies is limited those listed in the UK including the USA.

The Natwest Shareplan, Coutts Investors' Choice and Midland Select all allow the investor to choose from a full range of investments permitted under these regulations - not just the blue-chip companies you mention. Chase de Vere (tel. 404 5766) produces a comprehensive PEP guide.

If it were possible to divide your combined estates equally between you and leave each share separately to your children, then on the figures you give no inheritance tax would be payable at any stage.

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NORWICH UNION INSURANCE The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Offices, Surrey Street, Norwich on Tuesday 10 May 1988 at 12 noon for the transaction of the following business:- To receive and consider the Reports of the Directors and Auditors and the Accounts for 1987. To elect Directors in the place of those retiring. To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration. Dated this 8th day of April 1988 By order of the Board D P LISTER Secretary Surrey Street Norwich

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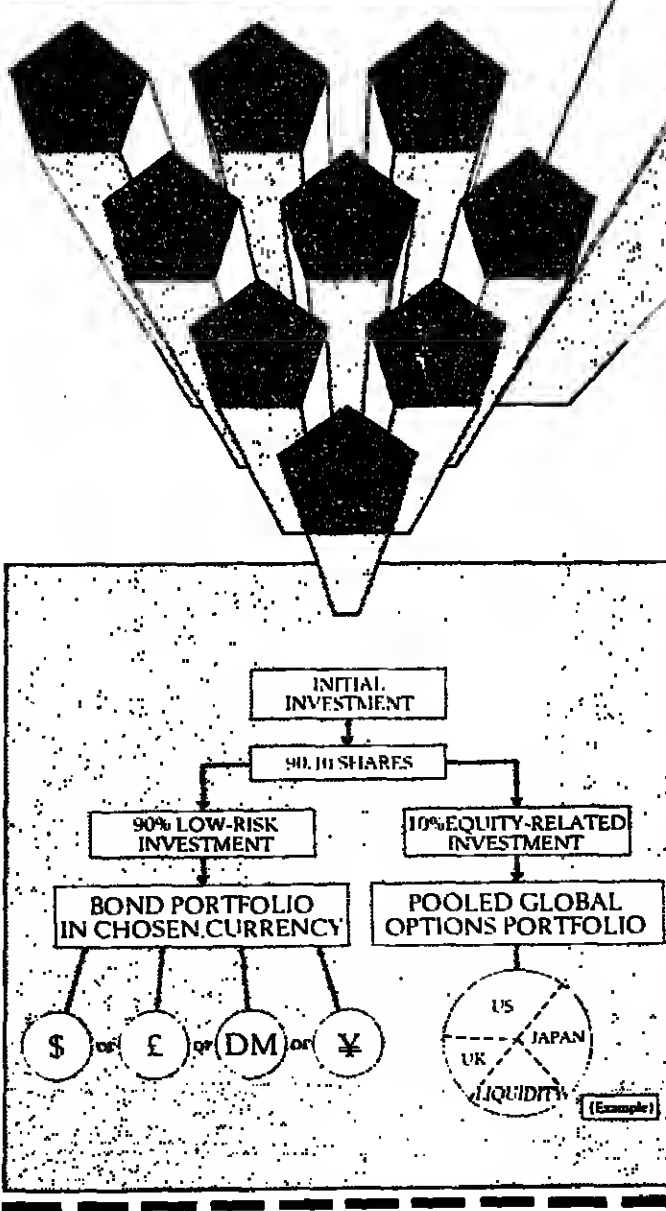
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ctims

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In most cases the attack must have also been executed unless it can be proved that there are very good reasons why a prosecution is not been brought against them.

In most cases, applications for compensation must be made within three years of the incident during which the injury occurred, although applications can be made in exceptional circumstances.

If the application is successful, the applicant will be given a written decision stating a sum of how the amount of appropriate compensation was calculated. The applicant is required to reply with written acceptance before payment can be made.

If the application is rejected or the amount of compensation reduced, the applicant has the right to be officially notified by the board. The hearing takes place in private before two or three members of the board. Applicants can be witnesses in support of the case and have the right to cross-examine any witness produced by the board.

There is no right of appeal against the board's decision unless it is on a point of law.

and eat it

be credited to every account. The equity element of plan is quite generous and passed with similar schemes in the market but the main attraction is that the interest is not necessarily be repaid to the original owner of the shares. Premature will pick up the tab of the body a wrong, though course it believes it is a valuation of it or buy it?

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Good payers can lose out

Debra Bunt had a bill for £646 because she prematurely redeemed the mortgage on her south-east London flat. It is bad enough, she says, that the company, Mortgage Express, part of the TSB Group, operates a redemption-penalty policy, but she believes she should not have to pay anything at all because she had tried in vain to re-mortgage with the company.

Mortgage Express has looked at the case since it was brought to its attention by Family Money and has decided to waive the fee as a goodwill gesture.

Mortgage Express's policy is that whenever a mortgage is redeemed before the end of its term there is a penalty of two months' interest in lieu of notice - but in the first two years the penalty for early redemption is three months' interest in lieu of notice.

The continued existence of early-redemption penalties is an anachronism in today's fiercely competitive market. The bigger building societies scrapped them long ago, sacrificing any loss for greater flexibility in the eyes of potential borrowers.

The Woolwich, for instance, deemed penalties "not equitable" and replaced them in 1970 with a flat-rate charge (now £15). The Abbey National said that though still included in mortgage clauses, "penalties were no longer operated".

The Big Four banks have followed the larger societies to compete for mortgage business. But penalties still thrive among smaller building societies.

The traditional early-redemption charge is an extra three months' interest, usually in lieu of notice. However, what constitutes "early" varies enormously. Town and Country Building Society is one of many smaller lenders whose current early-redemption penalty period is a staggering five years. So two single people repaying £60,000 after four years would, at 1987-88 rates (basic rate tax relief at 27 per cent, mortgage interest at 10.1 per cent) be charged £1,106 extra. For a married couple, this rises to £1,311.

Penalties are waived if borrowers decide to sell within a month of a rate rise.

T & C's managing director, Ian Bell, says extra interest charges amounted to £17 million last year (25 per cent of profits). He added: "There is no commercial pressure to review existing policy."

The Mortgage Corporation for instance, charges three months' interest but only on redemption within the first 12 months. Why the difference?

Rob Skinner at Nationwide Anglia offers a clue. "We believed flexibility was more important in a growing



Debra Bunt and son Daniel caught by a mortgage early-redemption clause

market and abolished penalties in the mid-70s," he said. "However, some lenders realize that borrowers are attracted by this flexibility and so try to lock clients into their product."

Tom Haines, of the Leamington Spa Building Society, which also has a five-year period, agreed. "Our policy is justified by the higher risk element in our lending," he said. "Today, and in the days of mortgage famine, potential borrowers could get a mortgage here after being turned down elsewhere."

"We cater for many first-time buyers and 100 per cent mortgages and put our faith in many borrowers without sufficient status at other institutions."

"The problem is that after two or three years of solid repayments, we have effectively given them the status to go elsewhere and, thus, feel no

qualms at trying to recover some of our costs."

According to Paul Marks, of brokers Chase de Vere, the charges are not always unfair. Administration costs can be particularly burdensome for smaller lenders.

He insisted that a five-year penalty period is unwarranted, especially for "bread and butter" mortgages. He added: "Twelve months is quite normal and even two years, at a pinch, but longer is inappropriate unless it's a special deal."

Special deals are usually tailored policies aimed at specific groups. They frequently contain early-redemption penalties. The new Lloyd's fixed-rate home loan, backed by a Black Horse Life unit-linked policy, for instance, carries a two-month interest charge if redeemed before July 1991.

Steven Dunne

Where Monday's benefits squeeze will hit families

Income Support (IS), a new form of Supplementary Benefit (SB), comes into effect on Monday. It will be restricted to those working for no more than 24 hours a week, whereas the old rules allowed claimants to work for up to 30 hours a week. When married people apply for IS they will be excluded if either partner exceeds the 24-hour limit.

Those with savings of £6,000 or more will not qualify for the benefit; the old limit was £3,000. However, for each £250, or part of, over £3,000 the claimant holds, it will be assumed he or she is receiving £1 a week in income, ie £250 equals £1, £3,300 equals £2.

The £3,000 includes all capital, whether or not it generates any income, including Premium Bonds and National Savings Certificates, but not the value of the home and personal possessions.

The amount of IS paid will be the difference between the person's income and the "applicable amount" in their case. Income will be counted on a net basis with a small sum disregarded - £5 for single people, £10 for a couple, and £15 for a disabled person, lone parent or long-term jobless.

A claimant's applicable amount is made up of three elements: personal allowance, children allowances and premium payments.

Personal allowances are related to age and marital status. Although rates are shown for 16 and 17-year-olds, the new Social Security Act will make it almost impossible for this age group to claim IS.

The Government believes young people should continue to be treated as dependent on their parents - who will be able to continue claiming child benefit - until they enter a Youth Training Scheme.

A child's personal allowance will not be paid in respect of any child of the family where the child itself holds

capital in excess of £3,000.

Extra "premiums" may be added to the personal allowances. Some premiums can be paid in addition to others while some are in an either/or category.

The Family Premium (FP) is paid regardless of the number of children and comes on top of any other premium.

The Disabled Child Premium (DCP) is paid when a child receives Attendance or Mobility Allowance or is registered blind. It applies for each disabled child and can be paid on top of any other premium.

The Lone Parent, Disability, Pensioner and Higher Pensioner premiums are all "clearest group" premiums and a claimant can be awarded only one of them, whichever is the highest, so a disabled lone parent would be paid only the disability premium.

A claimant or partner who is aged 60-79 can qualify for the Pensioner Premium - the couple rate applies where one or both are 60 or over. The Higher Pensioner Premium applies where the claimant or partner is 80 or over, or where either is over 60 and registered blind or receiving a special benefit for disability.

Those receiving income support may still get help with housing costs. But from next week there will be no separate allowance for water rates or, in the case of owner-occupiers, maintenance and insurance. This comes on top of the new rules set in January 1987 which limit payment of mortgage interest by the DHSS for new claimants under 60 to half the amount due for the first 16 weeks of benefit.

Those who are currently on an SB rate which is higher than their IS entitlement, will remain on the same cash rate until the IS level catches up.

Charles Jackson

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To: Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers Ltd, 46 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1UT.

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I/We enclose a cheque for £ _____ (minimum £1,000) payable to Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers Ltd.

I am/We are over 18 years of age.

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or Accumulation Units

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Surname

Forenames in full

Address

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Signature

Date

Daytime Phone No.

Joint holders should give names and addresses and sign on a separate sheet of paper.

Please do not use this application if you have already telephoned this order.

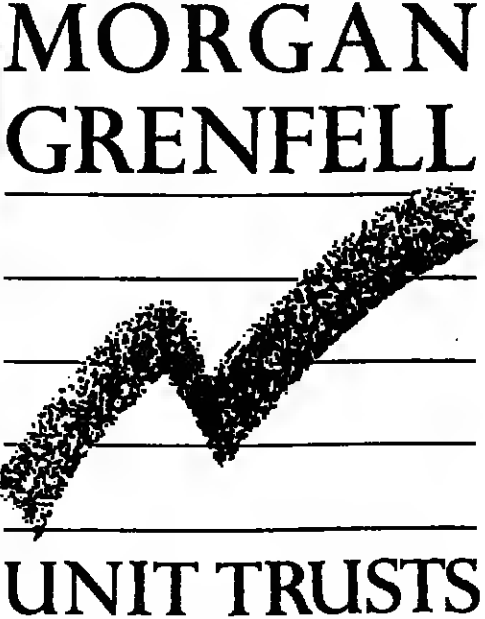
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11-15	£16.10
16-17	£19.40
18	£26.05
Family premium	£6.15
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Lone parent premium	£3.70
Disability premiums:	
Single person	£13.05
Couple	£18.60
Severe disability premium:	
Single person	£24.75
Couple (lower rate)	£24.75
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Higher pensioner premium:	
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TRUMAN LIMITED

Notice of meetings of the holders of the 3 per cent and 4 per cent Mortgage Debenture Stocks

Notice is hereby given that meetings of the holders of the 3 per cent and 4 per cent Mortgage Debenture Stocks of Truman Limited ("Truman") constituted and secured in the case of the 3 per cent Stock by a Trust Deed dated 16th March, 1896 made between Truman and Noel Edward Buxton and David Powell, as trustees, and in the case of the 4 per cent Stock by a Trust Deed dated 18th April, 1889 (as modified by Supplemental Deeds dated 5th November, 1889 and 4th April, 1895 respectively) made between Truman and The Right Honourable Sir Henry John Selwin Ibbotson and Sir Thomas Powell Buxton, as trustees, will be held at The Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, London E1 6QN on Thursday, 22nd April, 1988. The meeting of the holders of the 3 per cent Stock will be held at 3.10 pm or so soon thereafter to the meeting of the holders of the 4 per cent Stock 1991/96 and the meeting of the holders of the 3 per cent and 4 per cent Mortgage Debenture Stock of Truman as set out in the Notice convening for the same place and day shall have been concluded or adjourned. The meeting of the holders of the 4 per cent Stock will be held at 3.15 pm or so soon thereafter as the meeting of the holders of the 3 per cent Stock of Truman convened for the same place and day shall have been concluded or adjourned. The purpose of each meeting will be to consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution in the following terms which will be proposed as an Extraordinary Resolution pursuant to the provisions contained in the relevant Trust Deeds:

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION

That, conditionally upon (unless such condition is waived by the holders of the whole of the Stock in accordance with the terms, conditions and provisions of the proposals set out in the circular dated 30th March, 1988 addressed by Truman to (inter alia) the Stockholders, a copy of which has been produced to this meeting and is controlled by the Chairman hereof for the purposes of identification;

2. sanctions every modification or compromise in respect of the rights of the Stockholders inherent in or necessary to give effect to the said proposals and this resolution;

3. authorises and requests the Trustees to concur in taking all steps necessary for and incidental to the implementation of the said proposals and this resolution including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the execution of any necessary supplemental trust deed; and

4. authorises and requests the Trustees upon being paid to Sun Insurance Office Limited (or as Sun Insurance Office Limited may direct) or otherwise provided for to their satisfaction all amounts due to them for costs, remuneration, charges and expenses and an amount which the Trustees consider sufficient to pay any interest accrued and unpaid on the Stock and any proposed interest on the Stock respectively entitled thereto and so that Sun Insurance Office Limited shall be entitled but not bound to deposit all or any such sums with a bank and shall not be responsible for the safe custody of any sums so deposited or for interest thereon except such interest (if any) to be received by it out of which it shall be entitled to retain the amount of any expenses incurred by it and its reasonable charges) to discharge the Trust Deed and release the security for the Stock whereupon Truman and the Trustees shall be released and discharged from all further liability in respect of the Stock under the provisions of the Trust Deed, the certificates for the Stock or otherwise.

By order of the Board,
I. A. Sutton
Secretary.

Notes:
1. A copy of the circular referred to in the above notice can be obtained from Herbert Smith, Station House, 35 Cannon Street, EC4M 3SD, Ref. 83.
2. In the preceding text of the Extraordinary Resolution, passages in normal typeface relate to both the 3 per cent Stock and the 4 per cent Stock; passages in italics relate only to the 3 per cent Stock, and passages in bold typeface relate only to the 4 per cent Stock.

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LEGAL & FINANCIAL

All aglow in Glasgow

I think it's about time someone took Glasgow in hand. Those of us who have fond memories of the city from the early 1970s as a refuge from the trammels of polite society are becoming distraught at the disappearance of our place of asylum.

After all, living in a Garden City this year and Europe's Capital of Culture next must be bad for the sensibilities of those many Glaswegians who like nothing better than being lodged in a dark and dismal bar where they can glow at the world from behind a pint of "heavy".

Take Blythswood Square, which used to be an honest-to-goodness slum. Now the place has been transformed and boasts the palatial premises of Price Waterhouse and Peat Marwick McLintock, not to mention 3i.

In their smart, refurbished offices overlooking pleasant, cared-for gardens, they look like outfits on the move in a region which is going determinedly upwards. No longer is it acceptable to be down-at-heel (let alone a dram over the limit) in these glittering surroundings.

The truth is, seriously, that you can see signs of revival everywhere in the centre of the city. They are roost obvious, however, in the massive regeneration across the business quarter.

Archie Hunter, who runs Peat's Glasgow practice, declares that he is now being lunched by London merchant bankers as never before, and David Ross of Biggart, Ballie and Gifford points to the West of Scotland Science Park and the Centre for Japanese Studies at Stirling University as being the kind of magnets which are constantly drawing in new clients from overseas.

Even so, just how far this progress will extend I cannot tell. My recent visit coincided with the announcement that Ford was to drop its Dundee investment and all the lawyers and accountants to whom I spoke were bitter at the news.

The top professional firms in Glasgow undertake work throughout Scotland and the Dundee debacle was definitely bad for business. "Inward investment" from England, Japan, and America provides a lot of the most juicy transactions and assignments and is the main source of new, heavy-weight clients.

But as David Semple of the lawyers Bird Semple Fyfe Ireland WS commented: "All the goodwill generated by the district council and by the Scottish Development Agency can be so easily dissipated by this kind of Ford incident." Indeed, the fact that so much seemed to hang on the fate of 500 jobs perhaps showed just how delicate the region's new-found "prosperity" might be.

But while it is clear that the battle for

Glasgow's future has still a long way to go, the professional infrastructure of financial and legal expertise is now in place and ready to take on substantial work. With the exception of one traditional Scottish accountancy firm, Scott Oswald & Co, the local accountancy scene is dominated by the Big Eight, and as Mike Stanley of Arthur Andersen commented: "There is a very big gap between the top eight or nine firms and the rest."

The reason for this is primarily that in the last few years the major firms are now focusing attention on Glasgow and taking it seriously as an industrial and

Communications are now so easy that it is questionable whether Glasgow and Edinburgh should be operated as two separate markets, says Edward Fennell

commercial centre. As Gordon Anderson of Price Waterhouse explained: "PW has been in Glasgow for 40 years but until the mid-1970s the office was simply a small outpost of London. Then, however, people woke up to Scotland's potential and the whole operation began to grow."

PW is shortly to move up to five partners, although this still puts the company towards the bottom of the Big Eight league table in terms of size. But, of course, its strength is that, unlike local firms, it can draw on its massive resources for back-up.

"I've just had my first inquiry about 1992 and the single European market", said Mr Anderson. "It's not a subject I'm an expert on but I was able to bring in one of my colleagues in Brussels to discuss the matter. And that is why many of the local successful firms have come to us. We can offer services which smaller firms can't match."

What has significantly boosted PW's business, however, is the Guinness takeover of Disillers. As a leading member of the Glasgow scene, Disillers traditionally took its books to Arthur Young, the darling of the Establishment, whose own history is intimately linked with Glasgow's great days as an industrial giant.

However, following the takeover the audit was promptly whisked away from AY and transferred to PW because of its established place within the Guinness firmament. No doubt, when the full story of the Guinness affair is written, the respective roles of the two accountancy firms will merit a footnote or two.

Meanwhile, takeovers, mergers, and amalgamations have also been very

much on the minds of the lawyers. McGregor Donald, probably the largest partnership in the city, was brought into existence in 1985 through the merger of McGregor, Donald & Co with Moncreiff Warren Patterson & Co. And Bird Semple, one of the next in size, was formed in 1987 by the merger of two long-established law firms from Glasgow and Edinburgh.

In terms of future development and growth, it is the "Edinburgh factor" which comes through time and time again. Traditionally, Glasgow lawyers deal with industry while their Edinburgh cousins look after finance, but because Scotland's Central Belt is fairly compact and communications are so easy it is now questionable whether the two cities should operate as two separate markets.

As matters stand, purely Glasgow operations suffer from the disadvantage that they cannot brief counsel to appear in the Supreme Court. Only Edinburgh-based practices can do that. As a result, the hallmark of top firms is now whether or not they are represented on both the east and west coasts.

For example, one of the main reasons for creating Bishop and Robertson Chalmers, with its 19 partners, in 1986 was in order quickly to become a major player on the legal stage, with offices in both Edinburgh and Glasgow and to enjoy the right of briefing counsel directly without going through the third party.

Whether a Glasgow-Edinburgh axis will be the limit of the top firms' ambitions remains to be seen. Mike Stanley of Arthur Andersen reckons that it can only be a matter of time before the really serious ones start appearing in London in order to "complete the triangle" and stop the more lucrative Scottish business hemorrhaging out to the English jurisdiction.

Already McRoberts has an office in Victoria Street in London, albeit not permanently staffed, and as more sophisticated marketing is undertaken by the Scottish firms it is likely that some of them will go south of the border to establish a London presence.

Certainly the mood among the lawyers I met was keen to take on new challenges. They were all anxious to snap out of the slightly dozy torpor which has been the reputation of Glasgow lawyers.

As a sign of their progressive attitudes, most of them have already installed the computer hardware to enable them to take on quick-turn-round, high-level work. And Bird Semple even has what it claims is the first video-conferencing facility for lawyers in the UK (and maybe even in the world) to keep in contact with its new Edinburgh colleagues.

In fact, there was evidence all round of the glitter of commercial bravura. But what's really needed now is the glow of long-term industrial investment.

Year and day rule applies to coroners

Regina v Coroner for Inner West London, Ex parte De Luca

Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Hutchison [Judgment March 30]

The passage of more than one year and one day between the act of the deceased causing his death and his death itself precluded a coroner from giving a verdict that the deceased killed himself.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in quashing the verdict of the coroner for Inner West London that the cause of Lewis Victor De Luca's death was also imported into the statutory crime of infanticide, because, from section 1(1) of the Infanticide Act 1938 it seemed to follow that if more than a year and a day had passed between the act and the death, the defendant could not be convicted of infanticide because she could not have been convicted of murder.

Mr John Zieger for the applicant, the coroner did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said that deceased had locked himself in his bedroom. He was found lying unconscious on the floor. No one else was in the room. He had his airgun beside him and a pellet had been fired into his left temple.

Over the next year he underwent intensive treatment and a series of operations. At times he appeared to have made a considerable recovery, at others he relapsed into unconsciousness. It would seem that during that period he showed a will to live. He died thirteen months after his injury.

The coroner concluded that

the airgun had not been fired accidentally and, inferentially, that the deceased had intended to kill himself.

The application did not turn on the facts. The applicant had not been granted leave to challenge those conclusions. Only the question of law was in issue.

It was an essential ingredient of the crime of murder that the victim die within a year and a day of the "wound or hurt" being inflicted: see *Coke's Institutes* (Pt III (1797) p47). It had by analogy been applied to manslaughter: see *R v Dyson* ([1908] 2 KB 454).

It seemed plain that the rule was also imported into the statutory crime of infanticide, because, from section 1(1) of the Infanticide Act 1938 it seemed to follow that if more than a year and a day had passed between the act and the death, the defendant could not be convicted of infanticide because she could not have been convicted of murder.

During the many centuries when suicide was a crime it would seem that the year and a day rule was understood to apply to it: see *Hale's Pleas of the Crown* (volume 1 p411).

Relevant also was the position of those who did not take their own lives but were involved in the conduct of one who did. It would seem that a conviction of manslaughter under section 4(1) of the Homicide Act 1957, as on any other, would require that the death had occurred within a year and a day of the act causing it.

His Lordship accordingly agreed with the law as stated by the editors of *Jervis on Coroners*

(9th edition (1957)), the last edition published before the passing of the Suicide Act 1961, at p229, that "In suicide, as in other forms of criminal homicide, the death must take place within a year and a day of the act being done".

The 1961 Act abrogated the rule of law whereby it was a crime for a party to commit suicide. It did not however, legitimise suicide.

His Lordship said that if he was right to have concluded that the year and a day rule applied to suicide when it was a crime, it seemed that it must still apply not only where a party was charged with manslaughter under section 4(1) of the Homicide Act 1957 but also where he was charged under section 2(1) of the Suicide Act 1961.

Against that background it was possible to take two possible views. One was that taken by the coroner as summarised by him. The year and a day rule was an anomalous relic of a (no doubt fully justified) distrust of medical science in mediaeval times.

It might have provided a useful if arbitrary rule of thumb where crime was concerned. It should not be extended into a field where no criminal liability was involved so as to preclude an objective scientific inquiry by a coroner into how, when and where the deceased came by his death and the giving a verdict of suicide where that was established on the facts.

The alternative argument was that urged by the applicant. Suicide might as such have ceased to be a crime but it had not lost all its criminal implications.

Although no longer a crime, suicide remained the creature which the common law recognized, including the year and a day requirement. A stigma remained, particularly to those of certain faiths.

A verdict of suicide, however, the language was softened, should not be recorded now that suicide was no longer criminal when it could not have been recorded when it was.

The rule that after passage of a year and a day death must be attributed to some other cause should be applied now as it would have then.

His Lordship had not found it easy to choose between those approaches and the previous history and the existing law gave no clear pointer.

The coroner's approach undoubtedly had its adherents as evidenced by the omission from *Jervis on Coroners* of the passage quoted above once suicide ceased to be a crime.

On balance his Lordship preferred the applicant's approach. So long as the year and a day rule continued to apply to offences under section 4(1) of the Homicide Act 1957 and section 2(1) of the Suicide Act 1961 it should continue to be regarded as applying to suicide itself.

While good social arguments could be advanced for abrogating the rule for purposes of those situations his Lordship could see very little social advantage in abrogating it for the purposes of a coroner's verdict.

Solicitors: Penningtons Ward Bowie, for Steele & Co, Harleston.

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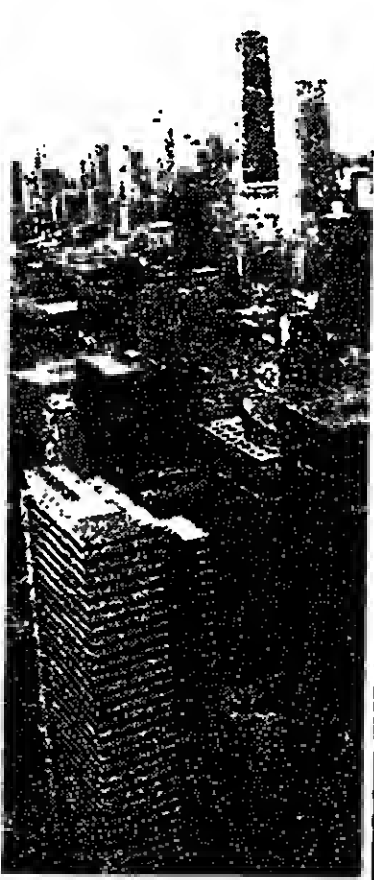
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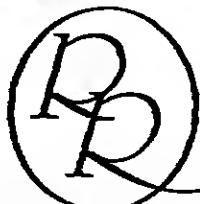


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RUGBY UNION: WARWICKSHIRE MIDFIELD HAS AN AIR OF INEXPERIENCE WITH THE LOSS OF BUTTIMORE AND MASSEY

Lack of experience at Twickenham could prove telling

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

A new trophy from Toshiba, the sponsor, will be on offer for the winners of the county championship final at Twickenham today but the competing sides have a familiar and traditional ring. Lancashire and Warwickshire have appeared in 31 finals between them, Lancashire winning 11 of their 19 and Warwickshire nine of their 12.

The percentages, then, favour Warwickshire but if their thirteenth final is to be lucky for them they must find a way past the bulky obstacle which is the Lancashire pack. In particular, given the importance and frequency in the modern game of the lineout, they must overcome the height of Dooley (6ft 8in), Kimmings (6ft 7in) and Gallagher (6ft 5in).

Yet those three players all featured in the semi-final against Gloucestershire which Lancashire won only 11-6, the West Countrymen finishing, the stronger, Warwickshire, with the understanding derived from nine Coventry players, should be able to at least match Gloucestershire's effort, notably in terms of scrummaging, and give an under-rated set of backs some decent possession.

It is their misfortune to have lost Buttimore, the Leicester centre, through injury; not only that but they have lost Massey, his replacement, who withdrew yesterday with a torn calf muscle.

Teams for final

LANCASHIRE: A Higgins (Vale of Lure); B Hanavan (Fylde); C Fall (Orrell); D Atkinson (Orrell); E Healey (Huddersfield); F Atkinson (Widnes); G Williams (Preston); H O'Brien (Orrell); I Mackay (Orrell); J Southam (Orrell); K Clegg (Orrell); L Atkinson (Orrell); M Atkinson (Orrell); N Atkinson (Orrell); O Atkinson (Orrell); P Atkinson (Orrell); Q Atkinson (Orrell); R Atkinson (Orrell); S Atkinson (Orrell); T Atkinson (Orrell); U Atkinson (Orrell); V Atkinson (Orrell); W Atkinson (Orrell); X Atkinson (Orrell); Y Atkinson (Orrell); Z Atkinson (Orrell); AA Atkinson (Orrell); AB Atkinson (Orrell); AC Atkinson (Orrell); AD Atkinson (Orrell); AE Atkinson (Orrell); AF Atkinson (Orrell); AG Atkinson (Orrell); AH Atkinson (Orrell); AI Atkinson (Orrell); AJ Atkinson (Orrell); AK Atkinson (Orrell); AL Atkinson (Orrell); AM Atkinson (Orrell); AN Atkinson (Orrell); AO Atkinson (Orrell); AP Atkinson (Orrell); AQ Atkinson (Orrell); AR Atkinson (Orrell); AS Atkinson (Orrell); AT Atkinson (Orrell); AU Atkinson (Orrell); 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Thus at a blow they have lost the speed and subtlety of Buttimore and the strength of Massey, who was one of the 10 survivors from the side which beat Kent in the 1986 final.

Instead Shaw, aged 21, will make his first-class debut alongside Warr, a colleague from Barkers Butts but bringing an air of considerable inexperience to the Warwickshire midfield. It will need all the pace which Lakey has been developing at stand-off half, even in the shaly circumstances which have haunted Coventry all season, to cope; it may also affect the entries into the line of Steven Hall, the Barkers Butts full back, who can add considerable thrust as Surrey found to their cost in last month's semi-final.

Southern, Lancashire's captain, makes the point that Twickenham will be foreign territory for most of his side: "Very few of us have played there and only Wade Dooley has had international experience, though Peter Cook has played in a couple of important games. The newcomers must settle straight away. If we can put our game together from the start we should win."

Cook, indeed, played on the losing side in the 1985 final, on behalf of Notts. Lines and Derbys, has been the soul of consistency for Nottingham this season. His industry should help provide Lancashire with valuable loose ball to give Hanavan, the Fylde flier, and the tricky Heslop a chance to spread their wings.

Nevertheless it seems likely that Lancashire's initial play will be through the kicking of Aitchison, as their side become accustomed to the atmosphere. Most of Warwickshire's kicking will be done by Thomas, their captain, both at goal and tactically and his experience may just give his side the edge.

There will be a curtain-raiser to the county final in which the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, will contest the inaugural Daily Mail under-15 school's cup final against Wellington College. In the semi-finals of the competition, played at the Scout Memorial ground, RGS Guildford beat Rossall 8-4 and Wellington College beat Adams Grammar School from Newport, Shropshire, 22-9.

Forward power: Dooley's experience at Twickenham should give Lancashire a head start

There is an odd twist to this afternoon's AIB Ulster senior cup semi-final between Malone and North of Ireland Football Club (NIFC) at Ravenhill (George Aice writes). Kane, on the wing for Malone, started the season with North, and Graham, hooking for the section two champions, was a Malone player up until this season.

Malone make only one change from the side that made heavy weather of disposing of Duggan, with Burns returning to the second row after injury for Ellis. North, some surprise winners over CIVMS, their section one opponents in the quarter-final, switch Alan Hunter, son of the former British Lion and Irish international, to the wing with Marr taking over in the centre.

In the meantime the ARU will between all reportedly approved overseas players either playing, or coming to play, in Australia this summer.

Ford regains his amateur status

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has been the first to take advantage of the International Rugby Football Board's ruling, introduced last month, which permits the reinstatement of players who have lost their amateur status. The beneficiary is Steve Ford, the Cardiff wing who three years ago played in a Rugby League trial for Leeds and was subsequently professionalized.

Earlier this week Ford lodged an affidavit confirming that he had received no money from any Rugby League club.

Ford plans to play today for Ruanay in the Cardiff East District sevens. Alan Friday, the Cardiff secretary, said the club would be keen to retain his services.

The WRU, who also agreed that Terry Vaux, a long-serving member of the Pontypool committee and district A representative, should be its second representative to the International Board, though his position and that of Gwynllwyd are subject to renewal at the union's annual meeting.

The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) hopes to revoke last month's International Board decision which requires players moving from one hemisphere to another to wait for a qualifying period of three months before playing. The ARU disagrees with the directive, which came into force immediately; it was passed without his union being consulted, John Dedrick, the chief executive, said in Sydney yesterday.

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Switch brings a twist to the semi-final

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Scott's plan

John Scott, the former England captain, is behind an attempt to take over the committee at Cardiff. Scott, who led Cardiff for four years from 1980, is one of five players standing for the committee in June.

They want power over matters on the field to be invested in a manager, with Roger Beard, the coach, becoming the team manager. Scott, who wants to become the England coach, would be the chief coach in a panel of five at the Arms Park.

Davies returns to the wing. There is, too, the confrontation at hooker between Dawe and Oiver with a trip to Australia available, but work for examinations at Durham University takes priority and Smith retains his place.

The London club have also lost Harriman, who scored three tries in the League match with Nottingham on Good Friday. He has strained a hamstring and with England to be decided.

Expansion has been a clear theme for Harlequins this season. It will be in alphabetical confrontation between Bristol and Leicester, both of whom field their strongest available sides. Leicester lack Roberts, their hooker, who was injured on Monday, and play Tracker instead.

It will also be a good day for Exeter. Under the old boy Hogg, the Bristol stand-off half, and Thornley, the Leicester open-side flanker, were contemporaries in the early 1980s. Both have added new dimensions to their respective clubs this season, playing possibly their best rugby at the comparatively advanced age of 27.

"Is there a quicker flanker in England?" Kevin Andrews, the Leicester president, asked this week after another perpetual-motion display from Thornley. He has prospered since his move from Nottingham, where Rees barred his way, and Hogg more than anyone will be aware of his red-headed presence.

Llanelli v Coventry Both clubs are severely weakened: Coventry have only 15 players to Warwickshire and only Fain (full back), Graham (centre) and Howland (halfway) have played regularly in the first XV. Llanelli, with many of their leading players away, at least have Carwyn Davies, their leading try-scorer, and Glyn Jones.

Lda Welsh v Waups The Welsh adjust their wings after mixed fortunes on tour over Easter and losing two players to the national under-20 squad. Llanelli v Newport, Newport v Cardiff, Newport v Cardiff, Newport v Cardiff.

Swansea v Cardiff Both Morarty brothers play in Swansea's pack and Ross partners Jones at half back. Cardiff are without Griffiths, their prop, who injured a foot in midweek but scored their 200th try of the season against Aberavon on Saturday. Newport v Cardiff, Newport v Cardiff.

Nottingham v Richmond Hodgkinson returns to lead Nottingham but from centre where he replaces Hodgson back at Scunthorpe. Sutton remaining at stand-off. Wyatt moves to flanker for the absent Cook, with Hindmarch coming in at No. 8.

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"Is there a quicker flanker in England?" Kevin Andrews, the Leicester president, asked this week after another perpetual-motion display from Thornley. He has prospered since his move from Nottingham, where Rees barred his way, and Hogg more than anyone will be aware of his red-headed presence.

Llanelli v Coventry Both clubs are severely weakened: Coventry have only 15 players to Warwickshire and only Fain (full back), Graham (centre) and Howland (halfway) have played regularly in the first XV. Llanelli, with many of their leading players away, at least have Carwyn Davies, their leading try-scorer, and Glyn Jones.

Lda Welsh v Waups The Welsh adjust their wings after mixed fortunes on tour over Easter and losing two players to the national under-20 squad. Llanelli v Newport, Newport v Cardiff, Newport v Cardiff.

Swansea v Cardiff Both Morarty brothers play in Swansea's pack and Ross partners Jones at half back. Cardiff are without Griffiths, their prop, who injured a foot in midweek but scored their 200th try of the season against Aberavon on Saturday. Newport v Cardiff, Newport v Cardiff.

Nottingham v Richmond Hodgkinson returns to lead Nottingham but from centre where he replaces Hodgson back at Scunthorpe. Sutton remaining at stand-off. Wyatt moves to flanker for the absent Cook, with Hindmarch coming in at No. 8.

Sheffield v Vale of Lune Vale will go second in the national third division if they win. Sheffield v Sheffield, Sheffield v Sheffield.

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Witnesses steer away from giving proof of cheating

By Barry Pickthall

British team crews were cleared yesterday of involvement in cheating during last year's Admiral's Cup and One Ton world championship events. A report published by an RYA/RORC inquiry team, set up last November, found no evidence to substantiate allegations, first raised in New Zealand, that three yachts in particular, Indulgence, owned by Graham Walker, and two one-tonners, Juno and Jamarock, owned by Michael Peacock and Alan Gray, had made illegal use of water ballast to improve performance during these events.

The allegations surfaced after Andrew Cape, an Australian crewman who sailed aboard the West German yacht, I-Punkt, during both events, exposed the widespread use of illegal water ballasting carried out by some European teams. His admission, first published in The Times, led to Thomas Frises, the owner of I-Punkt, being banned for 10 years and lesser penalties for his crew, including a controversial seven-month ban on Cape.

The RORC sent out 436 letters calling for evidence of cheating during the Admiral's Cup to all participating crew members and the 77 replies were made available to the inquiry team headed by Ken Ellis. In the words of the inquiry: "Much of the evidence is either very circumstantial (such as that based on changes in boat speed) or very hearsay to the point of being no more than rumour or gossip. It is now obvious that since the reports of cheating hit the headlines. There has been ample opportunity for the world

to come forward with hard evidence. There is none." As the journalist who brought this matter to light last August, I must register my disappointment, first for the harsh treatment meted out to Cape, and second because other crew members with first-hand evidence that would have been useful to the inquiry failed to come forward.

Without Cape's evidence, the degree of cheating, which has been far more widespread than that concerning I-Punkt, would not have come to light and the ballasting of yachts with movable waterbags and the illegal stowage of sails and other heavy items would have continued to corrupt

Rely on proven Aintree form of West Tip

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

While a drop of rain would not come amiss in the few hours before the race, I still maintain that WEST TIP will give us another good run for our money in the Seagram Grand National at Aintree today, and he is my selection.

A faller when going conspicuously well in 1985, the winner the following year but only fourth 12 months ago, he now belongs to that elite band of horses whose deeds have often outweighed reason.

Cast your mind back over the post-war period and some of the great National horses. Royal Tan, Tudor Line, Irish Lizard, Tiberius, Mr What, Wyndurgh, Merryman, Freddie, Red Allegator, Gay Trip, the mighty, the L'Estrange, Eyeatcher, Rough And Tumble, Corbiere and Greasepaint all gave their supporters a tremendous run time and time again before West Tip burst upon the scene.

In slotting into that pattern, West Tip is confirming again that the Grand National is much more a test of strength and character than simply the art of handicapping.

Were it down to the latter, Rhyme 'N' Reason would probably be home and hosed in view of what he has achieved on park courses already this season.

But as Red Rum proved so eloquently with deeds not words achievements on park courses often bear little resemblance to action over the Aintree fences proper.

In preferring West Tip now, I'm sure that he will handle the situation wherever he is.

I am not nearly so sure about Rhyme 'N' Reason, not just because he has never been there before but because his

jumping and positioning around some of the park courses has led me to have grave doubts.

On a point of handicapping, and I stress again it is not so much a question of pounds carried, more often one of mental and physical adaptability, West Tip has a good chance of beating the favourite, Lean Ar Aghaidh (last year's third), now that he will be meeting him on a steeple better terms.

Last year, there were only four lengths between them at the finish. The Tsarevich, who finished in front of them both 12 months ago, obviously has a chance second to none on that running.

However, this season his stable has been in only moderate form due to a virus while his own form has been even more uninspiring.

Pressed to name three newcomers who will cut a dash in the race, won so aptly by Lottery 150 years ago, I would plump unhesitatingly for Hard Case, Midnight Madness and Sacred Path, but not necessarily in that order.

A bold jumping front-runner who won the Midlands Grand National over 4 1/2 miles at Uttoxeter last May, Midnight Madness is capable of going really well especially as he enjoyed a mid-winter break.

At 40-1, he appeals to me as the best outsider in the field.

Hard Case, the leading Irish hope, is a fresh horse as indeed is Sacred Path. At this stage of the season that is an important factor.

In any event, they could all find Richard Dunwoody and West Tip going ominously well when the race finally comes to the boil on the second circuit.

Celtic Chief to atone

By the time that he weighs out to ride West Tip in the big race Dunwoody's own confidence should be brimming over because he has a fine chance of winning the previous race, the Sandeman Aintree Hurdle, on CELTIC CHIEF (Mandarin writes).

The distance will not pose a problem as he won over 2 1/2 miles at Newbury earlier in the season.

Also, it was only his stamina which finally enabled him to clinch third place in the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham last month.

PEARLYMAN, the on-disputed champion two-time chaser at Cheltenham, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

badly and succumbed his rider four fences from home in the Captain Morgan Aintree Chase 12 months ago.

Following that second successive victory in the Queen Mother Champion Chase last month, he is certain to start favourite again and this time he should succeed.

Finally, anyone in dire need of getting out of trouble by backing the winner of the Champagne Novices' Hurdle, the least race of the meeting, could do a lot worse than follow Oliver Sherwood's lightly raced five-year-old DECIDED, who has come on in leaps and bounds since finishing second to Whitford in a shorter trip at Lingfield five weeks ago. He appeals to me as a sporting nap.

3.20 SEAGRAM GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £68,740: 4m 4f) (40 runners)

301	300330	WEST TIP 28 (D.F.G.S.) (P Luff) M Oliver 11-11-7	R Dunwoody	50
302	21211F	RHYME 'N' REASON 23 (C.F.G.S.) (Miss J Reed) D Elsworth 9-11-0	B Powell	59
303	11231-2	LEAN AR AGHAIDH 42 (F.G.S.) (Mrs W Tulloch) S Mellor 11-11-0	G Landau	96
304	413-028	HARD CASE 14 (G.S.) (Lady Thomson) J Dreaper (ire) 10-10-12	K Morgan	83
305	10/02-P0	THE TSAREVICH 42 (F.G.S.) (Maj I Straker) N Henderson 12-10-10	J White	54
306	013PF1	DURHAM EDITION 35 (F.S.) (R Oxeley) W A Stephenson 10-10-9	C Grant	92
307	101-41P	BORDER BURG 15 (C.F.F.G.S.) (J Delahooke) J Delahooke 11-10-7	S Sherwood	54
308	101030	LITTLE POLVEIR 25 (G.S.) (M Shone) J Edwards 11-10-5	T Morgan	91
309	000014	LUCISIS 25 (G.S.) (Mrs H McFarlane) F Flood (ire) 9-10-5	Mr J Queally	89
310	14U030	MIDNIGHT MADNESS 32 (D.F.S.) (D Bloomfield) D Bloomfield 10-10-5	M Richards	86
311	000-320	ATTITUDE ADJUSTER 23 (G.S.) (Mrs J Magnier) M Morris (ire) 8-10-5	N Madden	81
312	313002	BUCKO 23 (G.S.) (J McManus) Jimmy Fitzgerald 11-10-5	M Dwyer	92
313	124F40	STRANDS OF GOLD 23 (G.S.) (Independent Trainers) M Pipe 9-10-3	P Scudamore	87
314	0F0210	MONANORE 42 (S.S.) (Full Circle Thoroughbreds) D Pic W Harney (ire) 11-10-3	T J Taaffe	86
315	F20242	GEE-A 23 (C.F.G.S.) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 9-10-3	Gea Armytage	90
316	00-P210	YOU'RE WELCOME 25 (F.G.S.) (S Embrocio) J Gifford 12-10-1	Peter Hobbs	88
317	200041	REPINGTON 28 (F.G.S.) (J Gilman) N Crump 10-10-0	C Hawkins	93
318	0-P102U	TRACYS SPECIAL 21 (G.S.) (A Ames) A Turnbull 11-10-0	S C Knight	84
319	11/313-1	SACRED PATH 32 (G.S.) (Mrs C Haggard) D Sherwood 8-10-0	C Cox	98
320	01F033	MEMBERSON 11 (F.G.S.) (P Dufosse) P Dufosse 10-10-0	R J Beggan	91

321	04-4323	NORTHERN BAY 22 (D.F.G.S.) (R Graham) T Bill 12-10-0	H Davies	81
322	2F1211	SIR JEST 32 (F.G.S.) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 10-10-0	K Jones	80
323	200P-PP	KUMBI 15 (F.G.S.) (D Lunt) M Cain 13-10-0	C Llewellyn	91
324	2F/100-0	SMITH'S MAN 18 (G.S.) (D Smith Mansfield) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-0	M Parrott	86
325	0PP0P-4	BIG BROWN BEAR 36 (G.S.) (G Barlow) G Barlow 11-10-0	R Strouge	86
326	312220	BRIGHT DREAM 21 (S.) (J Holmes) J Gifford 12-10-0	R Rowe	83
327	00-4F0P	INSURE 53 (S.) (Mrs E Turner) F Winter 10-10-0	B de Haan	74
328	203212	COURSE HUNTER 35 (G.S.) (D Buik) D Murray-Smith 10-10-0	P Croucher	85
329	010331	LASTOFTEBROWNIERS 14 (G.S.) (M Smurfit) M Morris (ire) 8-10-0	T Connolly	83
330	0-01000	ETON ROUGE 49 (S.) (Mrs B Jenks) Mrs M Rimell 9-10-0	D Brown	72
331	BU-00P0	MARCOLO 10 (S.) (D Ferguson) P Ransom 11-10-0	Miss V Williams	89
332	111P-P0	POLLY'S PAL 32 (F.S.) (S Payne) S Payne 10-10-0	J K Keane	70
333	000400	SMARTSIDE 29 (G.S.) (M Gifford) C Allen 13-10-0	Mr A Hamby	88
334	0-03031	BRASS CHANGE 24 (G.S.) (N Goodfitt) P Jones 10-10-0	M Kinane	77
335	30-0200	PREBEN FUR 7 (G.S.) (J Thole) M Chapman 11-10-0	S J O'Keefe	50
336	0130PUP	TULLAMARINE 10 (S.) (P Burfield) M Castell 11-10-0	M Bowley	66
338	301400	SEANDEM 8 (F.S.) (B Caffrey) P Mitchell (ire) 8-10-0	M Brennan	64
340	P-3RRP	ODE 18 L S 29 (G.) (Mrs B Blasco) K Morgan 9-10-0	N Doughty	56
341	032F2F	FRIENDLY HENRY 7 (R Wright) J Fox 9-10-0	Penny Fitch-Hayes	80
343	U13F22	HETTINGER 5 (S.) (Miss L Quirk) J Fitch-Hayes 8-10-0		

BETTING: 7-1 Lean Ar Aghaidh, 10-1 Rhyme 'N' Reason, West Tip, 12-1 Bucko, 14-1 Border Burg, Hard Case, Sacred Path, 16-1 Repington, The Tsarevich, 20-1 Course Hunter, Strands Of Gold, 25-1 Sir Jest, Durham Edition, Lastoftebrownies, 33-1 Midnight Madness, Tracys Special, 1987: MAORI VENTURE 11-10-13 S C Knight (28-1) A Turnbull

Form details in full for the 40 contenders

ATTITUDE ADJUSTER (8-10-5)

Mar 15, Cheltenham: (12-0) fell at 17th fence in race won by Over The Road (12-4) (4m ch, £13,812, heavy, 28 ran).

BUCKO (11-10-5)

Mar 17, Cheltenham: (11-1) 4th to Andrial (10-12) with Strands Of Gold (10-12) 5th away 5th (11 hcap ch, £21,120, soft, 18 ran).

COURSE HUNTER (10-10-0)

Mar 15, Cheltenham: (11-3) 3rd to Pegwell Bay (11-10) (2m hcap ch, £2,507, good to soft, 3 ran).

DURHAM EDITION (10-10-9)

Mar 5, Market Rasen: (11-0) 2nd winner from Preben Fur (9-7) (3m hcap ch, £2,507, good to soft, 3 ran).

ETON ROUGE (9-10-0)

Dec 28, Cheltenham: (11-1) 2nd to The Thirsty Farmer (10-6) (3m hcap ch, £2,547, good to soft, 7 ran).

FRIENDLY HENRY (8-10-0)

Apr 2, Newbury: (10-0) 2nd to a Bay Handed Sioux (10-0) (3m 100yd hcap ch, £2,522, heavy, 7 ran).

MEMBERSON (10-10-0)

Mar 29, Sandown: (10-12) 1st to Castle Warden (11-3) (3m 100yd hcap ch, £2,520, soft, 4 ran).

MIDNIGHT MADNESS (10-10-5)

Mar 15, Cheltenham: (11-1) 1st to Ralston An Argument (10-5) (2m 4f hcap ch, £7,111, heavy, 9 ran).

NORTHERN BAY (12-10-0)

Mar 18, Wolverhampton: (11-3) 5th to Good Trade (10-0) (3m hcap ch, £2,724, soft, 10 ran).

ODE 18 L S 29 (G.)

Jan 11, Carlisle: see Tullamarine.

POLLY'S PAL (10-10-0)

Mar 8, Sandown: (11-1) 1st at 1st in race won by Mr Perfect (10-0) (2m 4f hcap ch, £2,330, soft, 5 ran).

PREBEN FUR (11-10-0)

Apr 2, Sandown: (10-1) 2nd to Kouras (10-10) (3m 100yd hcap ch, £2,212, good to soft, 10 ran).

REPINGTON (10-10-0)

Mar 12, Doncaster: (11-10) 2nd to Valentines Joy (10-5) (2m 4f hcap ch, £2,465, good to firm, 7 ran).

RHYME 'N' REASON (9-11-0)

Mar 17, Cheltenham: see West Tip.

SACRED PATH (8-10-0)

Mar 8, Warwick: (11-2) 2nd to Queen Mary Boy (10-11) (3m further away 5m (3m hcap ch, £4,240, good, 7 ran).

SEANDEM (8-10-0)

Mar 20, Newbury: see Lucias.

THE TSAREVICH (12-10-0)

Feb 27, Kempton: see Rhyme 'N' Reason.

SMITH'S MAN (10-10-0)

Mar 22, Sandown: (10-0) 5th to Deep South (10-7) (3m 4f hcap ch, £2,520, soft, 8 ran).

STRANDS OF GOLD (9-10-3)

Mar 17, Cheltenham: see Bucks.

TULLAMARINE (11-10-0)

Mar 11, Carlisle: (11-7) pulled up 4 out with Ode Hills (11-2) (3m hcap ch, £2,755, soft, 17 ran).

WEST TIP (11-11-7)

Mar 17, Cheltenham: (12-0) 22nd to Charley Party (12-0) with Rhyme 'N' Reason (12-0) falling at 18th (3m 2f ch, £61,960, soft, 15 ran).

YOU'RE WELCOME (12-10-1)

Apr 1, 1987, Liverpool: see The Tsarevich.

Selection: SACRED PATH Each-way: Durham Edition.

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AINTREE	119	GOODWOOD	147	REDCAR	161
ASCOT	155	HAMILTON PARK	105	RIPON	109
AYR	105	HAYDOCK PARK	119	SALISBURY	145
BANGOR ON DEE	119	HEREFORD	139	SANDOWN PARK	155
BATH	141	HEXHAM	107	SEDFIELD	107
BEVERLEY	109	HUNTINGDON	133	SOUTHWELL	127
BRIGHTON	147	KELSO	135	STRATFORD ON AVON	135
CARLISLE	159	KEMPTON PARK	155	TAUNTON	141
CARTMEL	159	LEICESTER	127	THIRSK	161
CATTERICK BRIDGE	161	LINGFIELD PARK	157	TOWCESTER	137
CHELTONHAM	139	LUDLOW	139	UTTOXETER	129
CHEPSTOW	141	MARKET RASEN	117	WARWICK	135
CHESTER	119	NEWBURY	145	WETHERBY	109
DEVON AND EXETER	143	NEWCASTLE	107	WINCANTON	145
DONCASTER	117	NEWMARKET	131	WINDSOR	155
EDINBURGH	105	NEWTON ABBOT	143	WOLVERHAMPTON	129
EPSOM	155	NOTTINGHAM	127	WORCESTER	137
FAKENHAM	131	PERTH	105	YARMOUTH	131
FOLKESTONE	157	PLUMPTON	147	YORK	109
FORTWELL PARK	147	PONTEFRACT	147		

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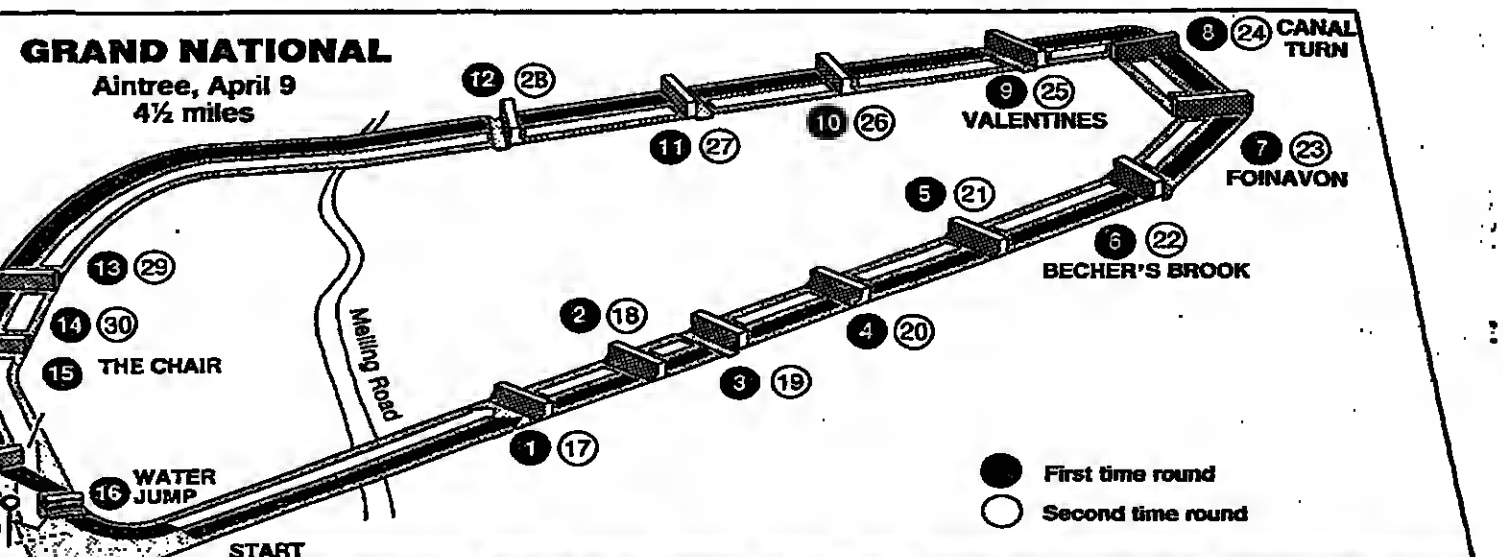
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Course guide to the 30 National fences



A to Z analysis of the big-race field

AINTREE (11-11-7): Pulled up 4 out with Ode Hills (11-2) (3m hcap ch, £2,755, soft, 17 ran).

ASCOT (155): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

AYR (105): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

BANGOR ON DEE (119): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

BATH (141): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

BEVERLEY (109): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

BRIGHTON (147): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

CARLISLE (159): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

CARTMEL (159): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

CATTERICK BRIDGE (161): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

CHELTONHAM (139): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

CHEPSTOW (141): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

CHESTER (119): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

DEVON AND EXETER (143): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

DONCASTER (117): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

EDINBURGH (105): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

EPSOM (155): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

FAKENHAM (131): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

FOLKESTONE (157): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

FORTWELL PARK (147): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

GOODWOOD (147): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

HAMILTON PARK (105): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

HAYDOCK PARK (119): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

HEREFORD (139): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

HEXHAM (107): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

HUNTINGDON (133): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

KELSO (135): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

KEMPTON PARK (155): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

LEICESTER (127): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

LINGFIELD PARK (157): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

LUDLOW (139): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

MARKET RASEN (117): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

NEWBURY (145): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

NEWCASTLE (107): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

NEWMARKET (131): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

NEWTON ABBOT (143): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

NOTTINGHAM (127): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

PERTH (105): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

PLUMPTON (147): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

PONTEFRACT (147): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

REDCAR (161): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

RIPON (109): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

SALISBURY (145): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

SANDOWN PARK (155): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

SEDFIELD (107): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

SOUTHWELL (127): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

STRATFORD ON AVON (135): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

TAUNTON (141): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

THIRSK (161): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

TOWCESTER (137): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

UTTOXETER (129): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

WARWICK (135): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

WETHERBY (109): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

WINCANTON (145): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

WINDSOR (155): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

WOLVERHAMPTON (129): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

WORCESTER (137): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

YARMOUTH (131): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

YORK (109): Good chaser on park courses, still has something to prove to the Liverpool crowd having blundered

ATTITUDE ADJUSTER (

The quiet man turns to Tracys Special

By Alan Lee
The chances are that you may remember the name of last year's Grand National winner. Unless, however, you are among those whose days are devoted to form book and handicaps, the name of the jockey might easily have slipped your mind.

"If I had been a different type, a go-getter, I might have made more for myself out of winning the National. But I am a quiet sort and I didn't really do commercial deals, sponsored cars and endorsements. All I know is that they didn't come to me."



Steve Knight: modest hero of last year's National

Hammond continues fine run with Royal Illusion

Michael Hammond's remarkable run of success continued at Aintree yesterday when the 25-year-old jockey produced Royal Illusion with a devastating burst of speed to beat Old Euro by five lengths in the afternoon feature, the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle.

Suburban Handicap in which he has 7th Sib. Stephen Woods will ride. The story of yesterday's winner is certainly a rags-to-riches tale. "He started off by winning a seller on the Flat at Thirsk last season," said the trainer.

Figuring out a persuasive case for Border Burg

By Jack Waterman
The Seagram Grand National is a puzzle which will engage millions this afternoon in the great British gamble of the year. Statistics can help to solve some of the problems and provide some pointers because the National does follow certain patterns.

Starting price
The National is not a race where, generally speaking, favourites win. But their place record is good. There has been one winner in the relevant period.

Time
Red Rum holds the course record and it is estimated that the 10 winners under consideration completed at an average of 29.8 miles per hour.

HEREFORD Selections

- 2.0 The Carrot, 2.30 Sir Speedy, 3.0 Docklands Express, 4.0 Tensentail, 4.30 Aughaghuog, 5.0 Petite Mitrage, 5.30 Adams Imprint.

- 2.00 PEARLYMAN, 2.35 Celtic Chief, 3.20 LEAN AR AGHAIDH (nap), 4.10 Joint Sovereignty, 5.40 Decided (nap).

LIVERPOOL Selections

- 2.00 PEARLYMAN, 2.35 Celtic Chief, 3.20 LEAN AR AGHAIDH (nap), 4.10 Joint Sovereignty, 5.40 Decided (nap).

3.20 SEAGRAM GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE

- 4.10 WHITE SATIN CHASE (E5,772: 2m 4f Midway course) (7 runners), 4.40 CHIVAS REGAL HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £5,950: 2m) (20 runners).

5.10 CHAMPAGNE MUMBA PRIZE NOVICES HURDLE

- 6.00 WEST WIND, 6.15 Sir Speedy, 6.30 Sir Speedy, 6.45 Sir Speedy, 6.60 Sir Speedy, 6.75 Sir Speedy, 6.90 Sir Speedy, 7.05 Sir Speedy, 7.20 Sir Speedy, 7.35 Sir Speedy, 7.50 Sir Speedy, 7.65 Sir Speedy, 7.80 Sir Speedy, 7.95 Sir Speedy, 8.10 Sir Speedy, 8.25 Sir Speedy, 8.40 Sir Speedy, 8.55 Sir Speedy, 8.70 Sir Speedy, 8.85 Sir Speedy, 9.00 Sir Speedy, 9.15 Sir Speedy, 9.30 Sir Speedy, 9.45 Sir Speedy, 9.60 Sir Speedy, 9.75 Sir Speedy, 9.90 Sir Speedy, 10.05 Sir Speedy, 10.20 Sir Speedy, 10.35 Sir Speedy, 10.50 Sir Speedy, 10.65 Sir Speedy, 10.80 Sir Speedy, 10.95 Sir Speedy, 11.10 Sir Speedy, 11.25 Sir Speedy, 11.40 Sir Speedy, 11.55 Sir Speedy, 11.70 Sir Speedy, 11.85 Sir Speedy, 12.00 Sir Speedy.

5.30 MITCHELLS & BUTLERS NOVICES CHASE

- 5.30 MITCHELLS & BUTLERS NOVICES CHASE (Amateurs: £3,144: 2m 3f) (15), 5.30 MITCHELLS & BUTLERS TENANTED HOUSE SELLING HURDLE (E92: 2m) (22).

5.30 GRUNNICK NH FLAT RACE

- 5.30 GRUNNICK NH FLAT RACE (E1,238: 2m) (20), 5.30 GRUNNICK NH FLAT RACE (E1,238: 2m) (20).

FORM PEARLYMAN (2-0)

PEARLYMAN (2-0) S winner of 4th Chesham (2m) on 15.12.87, 5th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 6th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 7th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 8th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 9th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 10th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 11th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 12th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 13th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 14th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 15th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 16th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 17th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 18th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 19th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 20th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87.

FORM WEST WIND (2-0)

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FORM SIR SPEEDY (2-0)

SIR SPEEDY (2-0) S winner of 1st Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 2nd Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 3rd Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 4th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 5th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 6th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 7th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 8th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 9th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 10th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 11th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 12th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 13th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 14th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 15th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 16th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 17th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 18th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 19th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87, 20th Southwick (2m) on 15.12.87.

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LINGFIELD PARK Selections

- 1.45 Morekin, 2.15 Majority Holding, 2.45 JANIE-O (nap), 3.45 Step To Stardom, 4.20 Patrosch, 4.50 Sherjan, 5.20 Corn Street.

3.45 WEARE HANDICAP

- 3.45 WEARE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,166: 1m 2f) (15 runners), 4.20 EAST GRINSTEAD CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,082: 1m 4f) (14 runners).

4.50 OXTED GRADUATION STAKES

- 4.50 OXTED GRADUATION STAKES (Div 1: 3-Y-O: £959: 6f) (12 runners), 5.20 APRIL HANDICAP (E2,784: 7f 140yds) (20 runners).

5.20 APRIL HANDICAP

- 5.20 APRIL HANDICAP (E2,784: 7f 140yds) (20 runners), 5.20 APRIL HANDICAP (E2,784: 7f 140yds) (20 runners).

5.20 APRIL HANDICAP

- 5.20 APRIL HANDICAP (E2,784: 7f 140yds) (20 runners), 5.20 APRIL HANDICAP (E2,784: 7f 140yds) (20 runners).

Course specialists

Table with columns: TRAINERS, Runners, Per cent, Jockeys, Winners, Rides, Per cent.

Course specialists

Table with columns: TRAINERS, Runners, Per cent, Jockeys, Winners, Rides, Per cent.

YOU'RE ONE JUMP AHEAD WITH CORAL IN THE GRAND NATIONAL. EACH WAY 1/4 ODDS 1.234. WIN UP TO £1/2 MILLION. BET EACH WAY WITH WHEN FAVOURITE STARTS ODDS-ON. NO REDUCTIONS. BET TOTE DUAL FORECAST. PLUS. CORAL OFFICES WITH CORAL. ALSO SEE CORAL IN IRELAND AND JERSEY. 'We're here to help' 01-591 5151. Special information desks in over 200 of our offices. YOUR NATIONAL BOOKMAKER.

George...

George...

George...

Woosnam sunk at Augusta by his own millstone

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Augusta, Georgia

Ian Woosnam's mission impossible proved to be exactly that as he completed his Masters debut with a second round of course here yesterday.

The Welshman had tied a huge millstone around his neck with his disappointing first round of 81, and so with a 36-hole aggregate of 155, which is 11 over par, he sadly emptied his locker in the white colonial clubhouse. "I'm going home," he said. "I just need a rest from the game."

Four weeks in the United States have created nothing but frustration for the man who in 1987 ruled the world by winning eight tournaments and earning more than £1 million. He did finish 17th at Bay Hill, but since then he has failed to survive the halfway cut in three tournaments.

"I'm not going to even look at my clubs next week," he said. "In the four weeks I've been out here I haven't learnt a thing. It's done me no good whatsoever."

Meanwhile, the Americans, Larry Nelson and Robert Wrenn, each of whom scored 69 on Thursday, sought to

preserve their position as joint pace-makers ahead of a host of European players seeking to improve their positions. Sandy Lyle and Bernhard Langer had each scored 71 in the first round, Ken Brown and Severiano Ballesteros returned 73 and Nick Faldo had a 75. Even David Curry, the 1986 British amateur champion, had every chance of surviving the halfway cut following his first round of 74.

For Woosnam, however, it was possibly one of the most

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	400	4	10	485	4
2	556	5	11	456	4
3	435	4	12	456	4
4	180	3	13	456	4
5	205	3	14	456	4
6	435	4	15	456	4
7	180	3	16	456	4
8	350	4	17	456	4
9	506	5	18	456	4
10	400	4	19	456	4
11	556	5	20	456	4
12	435	4	21	456	4
13	180	3	22	456	4
14	205	3	23	456	4
15	435	4	24	456	4
16	180	3	25	456	4
17	350	4	26	456	4
18	506	5	27	456	4
19	400	4	28	456	4
20	556	5	29	456	4
21	435	4	30	456	4
22	180	3	31	456	4
23	205	3	32	456	4
24	435	4	33	456	4
25	180	3	34	456	4
26	350	4	35	456	4
27	506	5	36	456	4
28	400	4			
29	556	5			
30	435	4			
31	180	3			
32	205	3			
33	435	4			
34	180	3			
35	350	4			
36	506	5			
37	400	4			
38	556	5			
39	435	4			
40	180	3			
41	205	3			
42	435	4			
43	180	3			
44	350	4			
45	506	5			
46	400	4			
47	556	5			
48	435	4			
49	180	3			
50	205	3			
51	435	4			
52	180	3			
53	350	4			
54	506	5			
55	400	4			
56	556	5			
57	435	4			
58	180	3			
59	205	3			
60	435	4			
61	180	3			
62	350	4			
63	506	5			
64	400	4			
65	556	5			
66	435	4			
67	180	3			
68	205	3			
69	435	4			
70	180	3			
71	350	4			
72	506	5			
73	400	4			
74	556	5			
75	435	4			
76	180	3			
77	205	3			
78	435	4			
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81	506	5			
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86	205	3			
87	435	4			
88	180	3			
89	350	4			
90	506	5			
91	400	4			
92	556	5			
93	435	4			
94	180	3			
95	205	3			
96	435	4			
97	180	3			
98	350	4			
99	506	5			
100	400	4			

depressing weeks of his life. He had vowed to win the European Order of Merit in 1987 in order to obtain an invitation to Augusta, as he felt he should have been given one last year.

But that first round 81 took all the steam out of him and yesterday, alongside Lee Trevino, he was simply playing for credibility. He followed an outward 38 with an encouraging inward half which included three birdies. There was a glimmer of hope that he could complete a miracle

FIRST-ROUND SCORES

- US unless stated
- 68: L Nelson, R Wrenn
- 71: M Calcavecchia, B Langer (WG), A Lyle (GB), O Pochy
- 72: B Grunshaw, G Koch, T Watson
- 73: S Ballesteros (Sp), A Bean, K Brown (GB), G Beck, H Frost (SA), O Hultberg, Y Kis, I Lova
- 74: Aoki (Japan), O Curry (GB), H Green, S Jones, M Mackay (SA), T Macgregor (Japan), A North, M O'Grady, M O'Meara, B Twiss, L Wadkins
- 75: P Azinger, L Clements, F Cougle, N Fazio (GB), K Koz, J Wadsworth, S Pais, N Price (SA), P Stewart, D Trewel
- 76: T Chen (Taiwan), R Maltbie, C Pavin, C Siedler, G Sprang, F Zosler
- 77: J Cook, R Davis (Aus), B Eastwood, W Loeffler, G Norman (Aus), E Rehrmann, J Sigel
- 78: S Alexander, D Barr (Can), G Brewer, C Coody, L Mize, B Montgomery, O Peyer (SA), O Poni, S Randsdorf, M Reid
- 79: S Hoch, L Mattica, M McCumber, S Simpson, J Sindelar, J C Sneed, B Wadkins, O A Wiedeking
- 80: G Archer, W Casper, R Floyd, B Ford, W Mayfair, A Palmer, T Simpson, J Suman, H Sutton
- 81: J Hahn, P Mayo (GB), L Trevino, I Woosnam (GB)
- 82: K Cooper
- 83: T Aaron, S Ford, S Gump
- 84: J Mudd
- 85: A Wall
- 87: H Lewis
- Withdrawn: J Thorpe
- * denotes amateur

Race on which punters will spend £30 million

The rain comes to alter the odds

By Michael Seely and Andrew Longmore

The rain which started to lash down on Aintree yesterday afternoon is likely to have a dramatic effect on the fortunes of punters in the annual gamble on the Seagram's Grand National.

Lean Ar Aghaidh, ante-post favourite for the world's most demanding steeplechase since chasing home Rhyne 'N' Reason on February 27, is likely to be replaced at the head of the market by West Tip, the 1986 winner.

"Richard Dunwoody is a public darling," said Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes. "West Tip has become the Red Rum of the eighties, and for the fourth year running we're dreading a West Tip victory." Last night Lean Ar Aghaidh, West Tip and Bucko were co-favourites at 10-1. Bucko, who has been backed down from 33-1 since finishing second at Cheltenham, is to be ridden by Mark Dwyer.

While Dunwoody acknowledged the rain would help - "but even West Tip doesn't want it too heavy," he said - Nicky Henderson, the trainer of last year's runner-up, The Tsarevich, was a dejected figure after winning the 4.50 with Rustle. "The weather always turns against my runners in the National at the last moment," he said. "The Tsarevich will have no chance. In fact it won't suit any of my runners. In fact we might as well go home."

The whole nation embarks on a gambling spree on National Day. Ladbrokes alone, expect to take £7 million out of an estimated £30 million, which is forecast to be wagered in the nation's 10,000 betting shops.

"In the past 10 days 32 of the final 40 horses have been backed from the favourite at 8-1 to Friendly Henry and Hettinger at 500-1. Our biggest loser at the moment would be Rhyne 'N' Reason," said Nick Stewart, of City Index, yesterday.

On the eve of the race, Lean Ar Aghaidh and Rhyne 'N' Reason remained the favoured horses among those who are supposed to know, the trainers and the jockeys. But the National has never re-



Favourite and friend: Lean Ar Aghaidh seen with his stable lad, Tony Dean, at Lambourn yesterday before setting off for Aintree (Photograph: David Hartley)

spected the tipster. "The form horse is Rhyne 'N' Reason," said Andy Turmel, trainer of last year's winner Maori Venture. "He should win."

Hywel Davies, who rode Last Subject to victory in 1985, also rated Rhyne 'N' Reason the form horse. "He's got the toughness and the ability, but you have to respect Lean Ar Aghaidh as well and West Tip will be a lot fitter than last year."

Should West Tip repeat his triumph of two years ago, it would cap a remarkable season for Dunwoody, who last month won the Gold Cup on Charter Party with West Tip

sixth. He said: "This was his only objective this season and he has never been the better. The ground is ideal for him and we are very hopeful. I also fancy Hard Case among the Irish. I've seen him run twice and he's impressed me a lot."

Jimmy Fitzgerald, the trainer of Bucko, said: "Repington must have a good chance on his best form and it would be nice to see him win for Neville Crump."

Simon Sherwood, currently leading the Aintree jockeys table after his first day double, has a fancied mount on Border Burg, but would not be surprised if brother Oliver won with Sacred Path. "I

wouldn't mind being on him at all, but I couldn't do the weight," said Sherwood. "I think he has a good chance and Bucko and Durham Edition also look the right sorts."

If Gee Armytage's mount Gee-A looks set to be the housewife's choice there will be a collective fingers crossed for Penny Fitch-Heyes on Hettinger. And not just for her own safety. The horse has failed to complete on five occasions already this season and yesterday City Index offered £100 towards Ian Botham's Leukaemia Research Fund walk for every fence jumped.

No sportsman will talk to you about nervousness, let alone physical fear. This is not entirely a pose: a sportsman who has made any sort of mark will be kept aloft by his constant belief that good things are possible. "The first time I rode in public, I was nervous - but not so much nervous, as tremendously excited, really wanting to do well. I'm not at all nervous for Saturday - but I am very, very excited."

"Because it's always been my dream just to ride in the National, just to have a horse to ride in the race. But I've got a horse that has a real chance." What he means, though he would not dream of saying so, it would be quite dreadfully unlucky, is that the horse could win, and that such a thought is so wonderful as to be almost unbearable.

Cox has had a small taste of glory. If he has not sipped the champagne of champions, he has at least tasted Asti Spumante. He once rode 33 winners in a season as a hot apprentice. Last year he had 20 winners. Now, as a grown-up jockey, winners are harder to find. In racing you have to climb your mountain twice. Cox is in that awkward, in-between stage. He has a lot riding on Sacred Path.

Cox rides as second jockey to Oliver Sherwood, and has the ride on Sacred Path because of his great affinity with the horse. It was his first ride for Sherwood, and it won. "He's very much a favourite, a horse, not like any horse in the yard. And I think Aintree will suit him: he's such a very accurate jumper."

"Fences feel small with him. And he'll get every inch of the trip. He likes to be up there, so I will try to jump him out smartly and keep him up with the pace. He's got a wonderful temperament - the horse is a Christian."

This morning will crawl by for Cox. He will ride the Christmas Sacred Path for an extra cent at about 7.30, and then he will walk the course. Then breakfast. Then "get ready". All a jockey has to do to get ready is to put his bright colours on. The rest of the time is free for worrying. And for trying to suppress that sneaking treacherous thought: "I could win this, you know. I really could."

He has no doubts about the horse's ability, and is doing his best to suppress all doubts about his own. He prays for "luck in the running", a passage clear of loose horses.

The Times Diary by Simon Barnes, Page 8

Forest reject Pisa's offer

By Clive White

Maurice Roworth, the Nottingham Forest chairman, yesterday dismissed speculation that Nigel Clough would join Pisa, the Italian club, with the comment that "they couldn't afford him even if they threw in the Leaning Tower".

On the eve of the club's FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool at Hillsborough, it would have been the furthest thing from the mind of any chairman to rock the boat. But apart from their own appreciation of the qualities of Clough, the Forest board is only too aware that Brian Clough, the manager, is reluctant to see his son leave for the Continent.

FA CUP

Forest are keen on keeping the pair of them "for as long as possible", Roworth remarked yesterday. He said that he had already instigated talks with Brian Clough on the question of his contract, which expires this summer. Roworth said: "There are no problems financially and I am confident it is only a case of dotting the Is and crossing the Ts. I would like to think Brian will sign for us for at least another two years."

"We could probably have finalised matters this morning, but he does have the important matter of an FA Cup semi-final on his hands. However, I expect we will sort everything out next week."

The club are keen also to put an end to speculation that Clough will take on the part-time position of Wales manager, speculation that is the result of comments by Clough himself on television recently. "He has always maintained Forest will be his last club. I am sure he wants to be around to see this highly talented young side mature."

"Brian has worked hard to get our players on long term deals, and I will be delighted when he agrees to one himself. We have something special going for us at this club which is why we want to keep everyone together."

Since Clough joined the club as manager in January, 1985, Forest have won the League Cup, the European Cup (twice) and the Super Cup and been runners-up in all competitions, including the world club championship, except the European Cup. But they have never won the FA Cup.

Semi-final lacking the appeal

By a Special Correspondent

Despite some brisk business in the last two days, the crowd for today's FA Cup semi-final between Luton Town and Wimbledon at White Hart Lane will be comfortably the lowest since the war.

Chris Belt, the Tottenham Hotspur box-office manager, said last night that the latest figures showed only around 25,000 tickets had been sold. The previous lowest figure for a post-war semi-final, excluding replays, was 43,838 at the Plymouth Argyle v Watford tie at Villa Park in 1984.

Tottenham, whose stadium has a 48,200 capacity, had sold their entire allocation of just under 2,000 main stand tickets by yesterday afternoon. By that stage, Wimbledon had sold around 12,700 tickets and Luton 10,300, Belt said. Wimbledon's box-office will be open for three hours this morning. No one will be allowed into White Hart Lane without a ticket.

There have been no such problems in today's other semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough. A crowd of 52,000 is expected but both clubs will suffer from the low turnout at White Hart Lane, as the four semi-finalists share 65 per cent of total receipts from both games.

No Welsh players for S Africa

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), whose members voted four years ago to maintain sporting links with South Africa, announced yesterday that it would not accept any invitation by the South African Rugby Board (SARB) for Welsh players to join an international party scheduled to play seven matches in the republic in August.

The WRU said it was "strongly opposed to any Welsh players participating in these matches", organized to celebrate jubilees in Northern Transvaal and Eastern Province and including two internationals. "The SARB has been informed that their request to issue invitations cannot be granted," its statement added.

Ray Williams, the WRU secretary, said his committee was almost unanimous: "The issue is now quite straightforward," he said. "No Welsh players will be allowed to play rugby in South Africa."

The decision was welcomed by Myrddin John, secretary of the Commonwealth Games Council, Cardiff, who is bidding for the 1994 games and John said: "We now stand an excellent chance of getting the votes of the African countries," which will be crucial when the Wales are also due to tour South Africa in 1990 but if consideration of the Commonwealth Games has played a part, that tour is unlikely.

The Irish anti-apartheid movement has threatened to boycott the Dublin Millennium game on April 23 between Ireland and England if the Irish Rugby Football Union does not bar players from touring South Africa. Ireland will call an executive committee meeting discuss it.

England, whose executive committee met yesterday, lifted a ban on playing contact with South Africa last month immediately before the International Board did the same, but the Rugby Football Union is opposed to a tour of South Africa. Scotland, who were scheduled to tour South Africa this year before the withdrawal of the invitation last November, will discuss invitations at their committee on April 29.

More rugby, page 37

Davies denies codes switch

By Louise Taylor

While the Welsh international Rugby Union stand-off half, Jonathan Davies, was denying rumours that he is poised to snub his country's tour of New Zealand this summer in order to turn professional, Alex Murphy, the coach of St Helens Rugby League club, last night insisted that the Llanelli player had promised him first refusal if he decides to leave Rugby Union.

"Jonathan has told me he would give us first option on signing him," Murphy said. However, while Murphy

stressed that he is in no way pressurizing Davies into forsaking his international career, he has pointed out that going to New Zealand will use up a year in the prime of his career.

"If Jonathan joined us now we would be talking about a salary in excess of £100,000. When he returns from New Zealand Rugby League clubs might not be too keen to pay over £100,000 for a 27-year-old," he added.

Meanwhile Davies who is playing in Bermuda said: "It's bows to me and a total pack of lies. I have not spoken to anyone about my plans for the future."

"There is no question that I will be part of the team that goes on the New Zealand tour but my main aim is to get picked for the British Lions tour of Australia in 1989."

However, he is not ruling out the possibility of a future switch to Rugby League and said: "I had no idea how much Rugby League players were earning."

Cahill makes Noah battle

From Richard Evans, Clermont-Ferrand

A very mature Davis Cup debut by Darren Cahill could not prevent France from taking a 1-0 lead over Australia in the quarter-final here when Yannick Noah recovered from a nervous start to beat the South Australian, aged 22, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Looking totally at ease on the specially laid indoor clay court that was fast enough to allow serve and volley tennis, Cahill broke Noah in the opening game of the match and continued to surprise the

Frenchman throughout the first set.

Certainly Noah looked the more nervous of the two, admitting: "I have not played a Davis Cup tie in France for many years and at the start my legs were heavy with tension."

At 4-4 in the second set, the issue was still very much in doubt but Noah turned on the heat and started attacking Cahill's serve with greater determination and freedom. A fine forehand pass down the line that left no room for error

gave Noah the vital break and after he had served out for the set, the match changed.

Nevertheless, Cahill, who learned a thing or two about the tensions of team competition while playing for Croydon Direct Liners in the Mortgage Corporation League this year, had justified Neale Fraser's faith in picking him.

● In the other quarter-finals, West Germany took a 2-0 lead over Denmark in Frankfurt, and Sweden took a 1-0 lead over Czechoslovakia in Norrkoping.

Fetisov for America

Moscow (Reuters) - Vyacheslav Fetisov, the Soviet ice hockey player, has signed a \$500,000 (about £270,000) contract to play for New Jersey in the National Hockey League in North America.

Vyacheslav Kolesov, head of the Sports Committee's football and ice hockey board, also said that an international footballer, Vagiz Khidiyatullin, would be joining an unnamed French club.

Richards back

Kingston (Reuters) - Viv Richards, the West Indies cricket captain, returns to the team for the second Test against Pakistan starting in Port of Spain on April 14, the West Indies Cricket Board of Control said yesterday.

Neutral game

East Berlin (Reuters) - East German football officials have ordered the second division club, Lokomotive Stendal, to play its next home fixture at a neutral ground after its last home game was abandoned because of crowd trouble.

New officer

Warrington Borough Council have appointed Kevin Tamati, the Warrington and New Zealand prop, as Amateur Rugby League development officer.

High stakes

Atlantic City (Reuters) - The world heavyweight title bout between champion Mike Tyson and the former champion, Michael Spinks, scheduled for June 27, has already set boxing history's record for ticket sales. A Trump Plaza vice-president, Mark Etesa, said that as of Tuesday, the Atlantic City hotel had taken in more than \$7.2 million in ticket sales.

Italian contest

Cegama (Reuters) - Pedro Delgado, of Spain, the runner-up in the Tour de France cycling classic last year, said as a prelude to this year's race to contest the Tour of Italy rather than the Spanish tour.

Lacrosse date

The England women's lacrosse team, captained by Lois Richardson, plays the United States in the first of three representative matches at Baltimore today.

END COLUMN